

CHAPLIN

Victim of an
FBI vendetta

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Pages 16-17

THE TIMES



No. 64,506

SATURDAY DECEMBER 5 1992

50p

Reagan, at Oxford, joins the call for action against Serbia



CHRIS HARRIS

Ronald Reagan proposed air strikes against Serbia and accused Nato of refusing to "cross the street" to stop wholesale slaughter when he addressed the Oxford Union yesterday. Reagan speech, page 3; Leading article, page 13

Owen fears
conflict in
Bosnia may
spill over

By MICHAEL EVANS

NATO was warned yesterday to start making contingency plans in the event of a spreading Balkan war. Lord Owen, co-chairman of the peace conference on the former Yugoslavia, told alliance ambassadors in Brussels that he feared that the fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina could spill over into neighbouring countries.

Lord Owen was said to have described developments as "grave and sombre" and told the ambassadors the West had better be ready to deal with the consequences. In London Douglas Hogg, the Foreign Office minister, warned the Serbs against using force in Kosovo, where two million ethnic Albanians live. Foreign Office sources said Mr Hogg's words should not be taken as implying a readiness to send troops to fight the Serbs. But Serbian aggression in Kosovo would not be tolerated and the UN would have to decide what steps should be taken, the sources said.

In Washington, the US administration was consulting allies on a possible UN resolution authorising the use of force to stop Serbian violations of the no-fly zone over Bosnia.

Macedonia issue, page 11
Leading article, page 13

Insurers seek bomb cover safety-net

By SARAH BAGNALL
AND NICHOLAS WOOD

■ Ministers are determined to resist insurers' pressure to provide a cash safety net for companies whose premises have been wrecked by terrorist bomb blasts



return to normal. Streets were crowded and shops reported that busy pre-Christmas trading had largely returned.

The issue is rising rapidly up the Whitehall agenda, with the IRA in the midst of a concerted bombing campaign in the run-up to Christmas. The IRA yesterday admitted responsibility for Thursday's bombs in Manchester, which injured 64 people.

As forensic specialists sifted through wreckage yesterday, the city seemed determined to

worth of damage, more than the total paid by the government during the past twenty-four years of bombings in Northern Ireland.

A main compensation scheme along the lines of the one operating in Northern Ireland, in which the taxpayer meets the cost of all terrorist-inspired criminal damage to property above a threshold of £20, is not being contemplated. That scheme has cost about £680 million since 1969.

Michael Heseltine, the president of the board of trade, is expected to hold further talks with business leaders from insurance, retail and property interests next week. He will then consult the prime minister and cabinet colleagues about the terms of a possible solution.

Mr Heseltine was careful yesterday not to rule out some form of government assistance while emphasising that his prime objective was to find an answer in the worldwide reinsurance market. He said on BBC Television that there was "willingness to discuss these matters further".

"I am told by people in the insurance industry that there are things certainly that need

to be examined. I am also well aware that large risks can be covered in the insurance market. Large sums of money are at risk and we have to find ways in which the market can cover those to the greatest possible extent."

This appeared to be a hint that ministers are considering proposals from John Greenway, the Tory MP who chairs the all-party financial services committee, for the Treasury to pay for claims above a set ceiling.

The Times understands that ministers remain deeply reluctant to bail out the insurers and are engaged in an apparent game of brinkmanship. The government is concerned to avoid an open-ended commitment at a time of tight budgets. It is working against the clock because, as commercial insurance policies come up for renewal from January 1, they will carry a terrorism exclusion clause. Some companies could face bankruptcy as a result of a terrorist bombing.

The possibility of a market solution involving government aid was discussed in private on Tuesday at a meeting of insurance industry officials and Neil Hamilton, junior minister at the trade and industry department. The proposal discussed was that the market would provide insurance up to a ceiling of about £250 million and

Continued on page 2, col 7

Ulster's £70m bill, page 2



Lamont: "absolute no" to changing position

By NICHOLAS WOOD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NORMAN Lamont made clear yesterday that he would not accept another post in the cabinet, in a move aimed at quashing speculation of a new year reshuffle.

The chancellor, who has been under political and media pressure since sterling's forced exit from the European exchange-rate mechanism nearly three months ago, said that there was "absolutely no" other position in government that interested him.

Although Downing Street officials have insisted that John Major has given no thought to a reshuffle, Tory MPs have canvassed possibilities such as a swap involving Mr Lamont and Kenneth Clarke. But his interview with the *Wall Street Journal* was a clear sign that he would not be party to such changes. Mr Lamont appeared to be telling his colleagues that he would either stay as chancellor or leave the government.

Bush says Somalia aid is 'God's work'

By MARTIN FLETCHER AND MICHAEL EVANS

PRESIDENT Bush yesterday ordered the sending of up to 28,000 American troops to Somalia to prevent mass starvation in the country. Britain also agreed to contribute two Hercules transport aircraft for the operation, believed to be the world's largest armed humanitarian relief mission.

In a televised address to the nation, Mr Bush called Operation Restore Hope "God's work". He said US troops would not stay one day longer than necessary and had no intention of imposing a political settlement on Somalia. However, the troops had been authorised to use force to

safeguard their own lives and those of innocent Somalis. An amphibious task force led by the *USS Tripoli* with 1,800 marines is anchored off Mogadishu. They are expected to land by helicopter to secure the airfield and port early next week for the arrival of the rest of the US force.

The two British planes from RAF Lyneham in Wiltshire were offered after a specific request for assistance from Washington. No British ground troops will be involved in Somalia.

US troops sent, page 9
Simon Jenkins, page 12

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Spotlight blamed

NO INDIVIDUAL blame is apportioned for the devastating fire at Windsor Castle in the official report released yesterday by Buckingham Palace.

The report, produced by police, forensic experts and fire officers, concludes that the blaze two weeks ago was started by a spotlight which overheated a curtain on the first floor of the private chapel close to the altar.

The Queen has seen the report which considered seven possible causes before deciding that the electric light heated the curtains to the extent that they burst into flames. Last night Buckingham Palace welcomed the report.

Report details, page 3

Prince sympathises with French farmers over Gatt

By ALAN HAMILTON

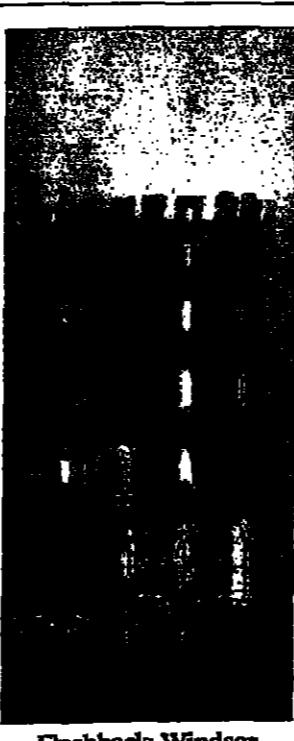
IGNORING the official line of his government and the gut feelings of his compatriots, the Prince of Wales yesterday offered his philosophical support to French farmers. He was speaking in Paris, surrounded by Frenchmen, and accepting a French honour.

The prince, in one of his occasional intellectual forays into the meaning of life and the future of Western civilisation, indicated that an unbridled market economy, as practised by the European Community, was killing tradition and the rural way of life, as practised by the Gallic peasant. He was speaking in the distinctly urbane setting of the French Academy of

Political and Moral Sciences, of which he was installed as a foreign associate member for his work as a late twentieth-century man and an avowed European.

He opened his address defiantly, saying he had been warned not to mention the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt), the EC budget, Maastricht or sheep meat. He proceeded to do so, if obliquely, to the subsequent consternation of MPs on both sides of the political divide. In a lengthy discourse on the need to find a new moral philosophy for modern life that would replace the sterility of Marxism, the prince said that the workings of

Continued on page 2, col 1



Flashback: Windsor Castle ablaze

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Students call for flexible two-term academic year

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA

THE NATIONAL Union of Students will next week call for a two-term academic year and for maintenance grants to be linked to individual study "modules", rather than rigid three-year courses.

The union is to launch a student's charter on Monday, intended to trump government plans to impose voluntary membership of the NUS in its Further and Higher Education Charter, to be published in the new year. The NUS policy overhaul is expected to recommend a more flexible approach to student finance in which grants would

be awarded on the basis of the academic modules students signed up for, rather than the duration of their courses.

Such a system would benefit those who take time off from their degrees, and would enable students to seek temporary jobs between modules, already a common practice in the United States. It is understood that the NUS charter will also call for compensation to be paid to students whose grants arrive late, and for the appointment of an education ombudsman.

The shift of policy on student finance, one of the union's doctrinal foundations, is the heart of the modernisation programme launched by its president, Lorna Fitzsimons, which will be discussed at its first national council on Wednesday.

In its most dramatic policy review since the 1960s, the NUS is expected to endorse a restructured academic year, with students attending university or college for two of three 15-week terms. The union now recognises that two-year "fast-track" courses are inevitable, as higher education expands and the funding councils press for more efficient use of resources.

The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals said yesterday that it would study the plans in detail. "Modularity is the coming thing and linking it with funding is a novel idea," a spokesman said. An investigation

into the future of the academic year, headed by Lord Flowers, is due to publish its interim report in April. The Universities Funding Council said yesterday that NUS support for modular courses was to be welcomed. "The council is trying to encourage initiatives that increase the flexibility in course provision, particularly for mature students who might not want the whole of three years' study," a spokesman said.

The student charter sets out what are described as a series of rights which students should be entitled to and concludes: "They are based on principles which we believe in

Bright young things, page 3

Patient's charter

Minister aims to cut waiting time with new GP guidelines

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

PATIENTS will be entitled to a rapid response to complaints under new standards for general practitioner services announced yesterday.

GPs will also be asked to set local standards for their own practices, specifying maximum waiting times to see a doctor in the surgery or to contact one by telephone in an emergency.

The standards, which extend the patient's charter to primary care and include prompt help with changing one's doctor, were announced yesterday by Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, and take effect next April. "We have had notable success in

driving down waiting times and improving the quality of information available about the NHS through the patient's charter," she said. "This development of the charter will help to level up standards in primary care to those of the best."

Under the charter, family health services authorities will have two days to find a GP for anyone not registered with one. They will also be required to send within the same time details of how to change doctor and a list of those in the area to anyone who asks for advice. Medical records must be transferred within six weeks or within two days if required urgently.

Complaints must be acknowledged within two days and cleared within a month if dealt with informally or six months if they require a committee hearing. Both patient and doctor must be given monthly progress reports until the complaint is cleared.

The patient's charter cannot compel GPs to adhere to national standards because they are independent contractors. However, health authorities are asked to provide guidelines to encourage GPs to set out what patients can expect.

As well as covering waiting times, arrangements for contacting a doctor and dealing with complaints, there should be standards for the way in which they pass on results of tests, health promotion work, facilities for people with children and disabled people and services for ethnic minorities.

The British Medical Association said the charter would help all GPs reach the standard of the best. Since the patient's charter for hospital services was introduced last April, two-year waiting lists have been cleared and health authorities are working to cut waiting lists to 18 months in some specialties.

Phobia clinic, page 6

French farmers defended

Continued from page 1
human spirit of unrelenting migration from the countryside to the big cities." France, he said, had set others an inspiring example of civilised values perpetuated and nurtured within an overall cultural approach to life.

Those were underpinned, he said, "by giving due importance to the kind of rural traditions without which it would be impossible to enjoy a way of life that recognises — both in the countryside and the town — the importance of elements in our lives which enrich and enable us, but which are not cost-effective in strictly economic terms".

Quoting sources from Adam Smith to Guy de Maupassant, the prince confirmed himself to be a less than total disciple of *laissez-faire* Thatcherite economics, and more of a committed environmentalist.

"We continue to base our economic practices on the pursuit of growth, in a manner which is not only unsustainable in ecological terms, but also incurs a host of other costs — growing wealth differentials, an unhealed divide between north and south, a horrendous debt burden, and the creation of an underclass in many industrialised countries," he said.

□ The prince's remarks struck a responsive chord at the National Farmers' Union, where there is much sympathy for French farmers' fears about the impact of a Gatt settlement if not always for the manner in which they express them. (Michael Hornsey writes).

David Naish, the union's president, said last night: "I will be seeing the prime minister on Monday and will be telling him of our concern about the effect of agricultural policy on the fabric of rural life."

Bumper harvest, page 7
Photograph, page 10

Ulster bombs cost £70m in past year

BY EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

INSURANCE cover for people and buildings as a result of terrorist violence has not been available in Northern Ireland since the beginning of the present troubles.

Compensation claims for private or commercial property since 1968 totals more than £70 million, most caused by IRA violence. The figure for injury is £220 million.

The most expensive years were the mid to late 1970s with compensation reaching £56 million in 1977. This year, IRA explosions in Belfast and several larger towns are expected to produce a combined total of more than

EC urged to take lead on world arms control

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE European Community must take a leading role in forging a new international system for controlling the spread of arms and dual-use technology, a report by a research organisation said yesterday.

The EC's five principal arms exporters currently account for 19 per cent of world trade in "major defence systems" and 17 per cent of sales to countries in the Third World, according to the 136-page report Saferworld.

The compensation system in Northern Ireland, which requires claimants to obtain a certificate from the chief constable confirming that damage was caused by organised violence, has been the subject of considerable criticism over delays in the provision of military programmes follows

prescriptive. She replied this week that schools had a "significant element of flexibility" and should organise the curriculum to meet their own needs.

Mr Howard and colleagues from other West Midlands grammar schools said that the curriculum risked becoming a straitjacket. Statutory requirements left virtually no time for other subjects. The rich variety which should be on offer to all pupils, and certainly to academically gifted pupils, will be under threat and could result in an impoverishment of academic provision beyond the age of 14 was too

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Protest at 'snoop' cameras

BY PAUL WILKINSON

BRITAIN'S largest network of city-centre surveillance cameras was switched on yesterday amid calls for legislation to provide strict controls over who uses them.

Businesses in Newcastle upon Tyne and the city council, which have split the £300,000 cost between them, reject suggestions of snooping, saying their aim is to reduce crime.

But Liberty, the civil liberties pressure group, is concerned that there are no legal constraints on such systems. "We are not against the idea in principle," Alison Vickers, a spokeswoman, said. "But at present there is no statutory regulation. There are no restraints on who operates them, who has access to the videotapes or how long they are kept."

"Would they be used during political demonstrations? These are matters the Home Office should be addressing as more and more of these systems come into use."

Gordon Allanson, manager of Eldon Square shopping centre, said visitors no longer considered the cameras a threat. "Attitudes have changed and people will look on the cameras as a benefit, making them feel safer and more comfortable," he said.

□ *Arms and Dual-Use Exports from the EC: A Common Policy for Regulation and Control*. Saferworld, 82 Colston Street, Bristol, E60 (institutional), £15 (individuals)

Anglican shrine bans women priests

The first "no go area" for women priests was declared in the Church of England yesterday (Ruth Gledhill writes). Senior churchmen decided to ban women priests from taking services at the Walsingham shrine, England's premier place of pilgrimage.

More than 25 shrine guardians met in London yesterday and agreed on the ban. They included John Gummer, agriculture minister, who resigned from the General Synod this week, and Dr Graham Leonard, the former Bishop of London, who plans to join the Roman Catholic Church. Walsingham is a focal point for Anglo-Catholics, who are jeered by protesters each May when they process behind a statue of the Virgin Mary. The shrine also attracts thousands of evangelical and liberal Anglicans, as well as pilgrims from other denominations.

The guardians said in a statement: "We do not accept the unilateral decision to admit women to the priesthood and therefore women priests will not officiate at the shrine."

Credo, page 7

Barracks security alert

One of Britain's largest military bases was the target yesterday of two suspected shooting incidents. Police said they were keeping an "open mind" about possible terrorist activity at Caterick garrison in North Yorkshire in the wake of the bombing of Manchester city centre on Thursday but a massive search was carried out by soldiers and police all day. In the first incident at about 3am on the camp's perimeter at Wainwright, a sentry fired several rounds at intruders who were thought to be armed. Police said they could have been poachers. There have been 17 reports of poachers in the area recently. Just after day break, a shot was reportedly fired from a passing car close to the Helles barracks, but police believe that it might have been the vehicle's backfire. They appealed for the driver of a blue Ford Escort to come forward.

Designer's fatal slip

Oliver Gregory, a co-founder of Habitat, died in a shotgun accident when he slipped on wet grass as he shot at birds attacking his doves, an inquest was told. Mr Gregory, a designer aged 62, was found on the lawn of his home in Collingbourne Ducis, Wiltshire, by his wife, Sue, and Fred Palmer, a gardener, on November 23. Mrs Gregory told the inquest, in Salisbury, Wiltshire, that when she first saw the body she thought it was a tramp. "I came into the house to get Oliver but I could not find him and it dawned on me that the person I had seen was Oliver. I became hysterical and rushed out into the garden. I think I must have fainted." John Elgar, the coroner, recorded a verdict of misadventure.

Jilted lover jailed

A salesman who raped and tortured his former lover in front of her two children was jailed for six years at the Old Bailey yesterday. Judge Neil Denison QC was told how the jilted man drugged the 21-year-old and held her captive in a hotel room along with the children, aged four and one. The woman, who had ended the four-year relationship three weeks earlier, was bound and gagged. During repeated sexual assaults, the 31-year-old attacker used an electric stun gun and at one point held a knife to the baby's throat to stop her mother screaming. Judge Denison said that the man carried out "a horrifying series of sexual assaults designed to humiliate her".

Taxman nets records

Cricket records from 1772-96 have been used to pay an inheritance tax demand. The minutes, subscription and account books of Hambledon cricket club, regarded as the birthplace of the modern game, will be displayed at Hampshire county record office. They belonged to Sir Alan and Lady Lobbcock. One of her ancestors was a steward at the club and the records were accepted by the Museums and Galleries Commission in lieu of £39,210 tax. The commission recently accepted a Bugatti.

Lorry drivers hijacked

A lorry driver was yesterday hijacked at gunpoint and taken on a five-hour drive by thieves who stole his vehicle and its load, together worth £100,000. The driver was about to go to sleep when he was attacked in a lorry park near Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. Police found him on the hard shoulder of the M6 nearly 250 miles away. In a separate incident, hijackers who took a lorry driver on a two-hour ride in a car boot after stealing his load released him after giving him £5 for his taxi fare home.

Doctor blinded wife

A jealous doctor who blinded his wife by stabbing out her eyes in front of their daughter was jailed for 12 years at the Old Bailey yesterday. The sentence was criticised as too lenient by Roohane Haroon-Qadri, 30, who said: "He's sentenced me to a life of darkness." Mrs Haroon-Qadri, of West Norwood, south London, who wanted a divorce from her arranged marriage, added: "I've got life but he's only been sentenced to a short term." Hassan Qadri, 40, admitted causing grievous bodily harm with intent.

Insurers join battle

Continued from page 1
that the government would guarantee cover above that.

Present at the meeting were Ian Rushton, chairman of the Association of British Insurers. Peter Ward, general manager at Commercial Union, Ruth Kuller and Cooper Mitchell on behalf of the British Institute of Insurance Brokers Association (BIIBA), Martin Taylor, of Hanson, and John Pollard on behalf of the Confederation of British Industry, and Liz Taylor for the Association of Insurance and Risk Managers.

Mr Hamilton gave a clear message that the government was prepared to consider a deal. BIIBA and Lloyd's bro-



Light of hope: Elma Foric, five, whose home in the village of Kozarac, Bosnia, was burned down, yesterday looking forward to a new life. She and her family have been brought to Britain by the Leeds-based charity Alert so that Elma can have a kidney operation

1st AID appeal, page 11, leading article, page 13

Heads condemn tests at 14 as bureaucratic monster

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE head of the state school with the best examination results in England led an assault by 17 leading selective schools yesterday on the government's plans for 14 to 16-year-olds.

In a joint letter to *The Times* and other newspapers, the heads echoed many of the criticisms made by independent schools last month of testing and curriculum changes. They said tests at 14 were a bureaucratic monster in the making and that subjects such as art, music and the classics were under threat in the state sector.

The criticism came as

education ministers were accused by Sir Malcolm Thornton, Conservative chairman of the Commons select committee on education, of allowing right-wing pressure groups to influence education policy unduly. Ministerial sources denied that Conservative think-tanks were dictating policy.

Keith Howard, head of Queen Mary's Grammar School, Walsall, which had the best combined GCSE and A-level results of all English state schools, wrote a month ago to Baroness Blatch, the education minister, complaining that the new curriculum beyond the age of 14 was too

prescriptive. She replied this week that schools had a "significant element of flexibility" and should organise the curriculum to meet their own needs.

Mr Howard and colleagues from other West Midlands grammar schools said that the curriculum risked becoming a straitjacket. Statutory requirements left virtually no time for other subjects. The rich variety which should be on offer to all pupils, and certainly to academically gifted pupils, will be under threat and could result in an impoverishment of academic provision beyond the age of 14 was too

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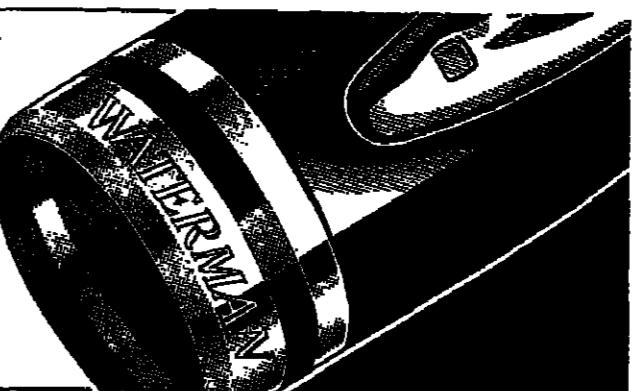
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Diplomat ge

The day the pound died

Re

Investigators find that nobody was to blame for multi-million pound castle blaze

Spotlight near curtain started Windsor fire, enquiry decides

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THE fire that destroyed a large part of Windsor Castle two weeks ago was probably caused by a spotlight accidentally setting fire to a curtain in the private chapel. The official report into the blaze, delivered to the Queen yesterday, concludes that no individual was to blame.

Buckingham Palace has welcomed the report, saying that no further investigation into the incident is necessary. The palace said it had no plans at present to take legal action against any contractors involved in the renovation project under way at Windsor.

Police, forensic scientists and fire officers spent eight days investigating the wreckage in the northeast corner of the castle's Upper Ward and conducted more than 100 interviews. Their brief, one-and-a-half-page report confirms that the fire started close to the altar of the first-floor private chapel.

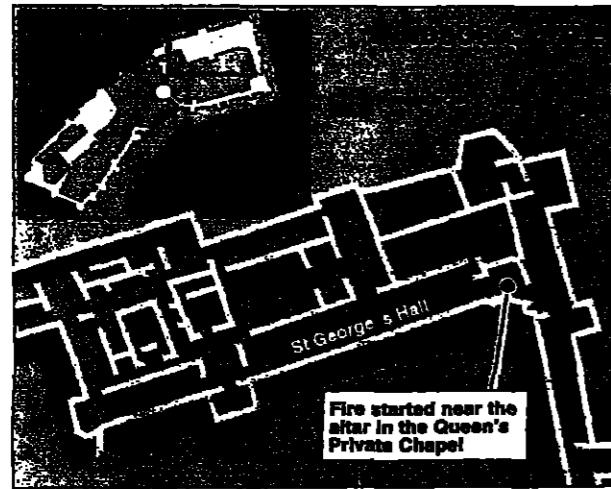
Investigators ruled out any suggestion that the fire might have been started deliberately. They also eliminated the possibilities of a discarded cigarette, faults in electrical equipment or circuits, or the fire having spread from an external source.

The report quashes the suggestion in some newspa-

pers that the culprit was an art restorer who sprayed inflammable solvent near a hot lamp. Art restoration played no part in the blaze, the investigators state.

Palace officials were at pains yesterday to clear the name of Violette Pemberton-Figgin, a picture restorer working for the royal collection, whom some newspapers named as having caused the fire. "We are pleased that the report effectively exonerates her and her colleagues in the royal collection department of any blame," the palace said. "Her contribution to the salvage operation is initially raising the alarm, and ensuring that the contents of the private chapel were so quickly removed to safety, is much appreciated."

The offending spotlight, situated at a high level in the chapel, is understood to have been part of the permanent lighting system and to have been recently refitted. When the fire began the chapel was being used to store redecoration and rewiring was carried out in adjoining apartments.



Diary, page 12



Night of flames... and the aftermath: the Queen inspects damage after the blaze that began in a chapel

Diplomat gets 20 years for smuggling

BY KATE ALDERSON

A HIGH-RANKING Thai diplomat based in London was jailed yesterday for 20 years for smuggling 50 kilograms of heroin into Heathrow airport last August. He is the most senior diplomat convicted for drug trafficking.

Piseth Pamarapa, 45, is first secretary at the Thai embassy in London and a representative of the Thai National Intelligence Agency, the secret service set up with CIA backing 30 years ago. One of his jobs was to link with the British security services.

Pamarapa, part of a drug smuggling ring, had hoped to bring into Britain heroin worth £4.5 million packed into two cases under the cover of

diplomatic immunity, but was arrested at the airport after he had walked through the green channel wearing his diplomat's badge. Immediately after his arrest the Thai authorities waived immunity and he was found guilty in June of drug smuggling.

Customs officers, who have suspected for some time that privilege is still being abused to bring drugs into Britain, were yesterday delighted at the sentence which they see as a great deterrent against diplomatic corruption.

Sentenced at Kingston Crown Court, Judge Dewi Thomas told Pamarapa: "You decided although you had a job, a good position and salary

to misuse privileges of being an honourable diplomat. These privileges carry an obvious and clear obligation."

Lord Richard QC, counsel for Pamarapa, described him as a "pious individual who had shown no sign of veering into crime. "This is a very sad case as far as Mr Pamarapa is concerned. To quote a biblical phrase, 'he was tempted and he fell, and his fall has been the greatest.'

Pamarapa was recruited by a Pakistani family of drug barons headed by the late Omer Khan Yousuf Zia, whose son, Dameed Umer Khan, 33, a businessman from east London, was one of two co-defendants found

guilty with Pamarapa. Khan was jailed for 20 years, and Surat Sakharavej, a Thai businessman from north London, was jailed for 17 years. Judge Thomas told Khan: "You were the right-hand man, immediately below your father, for setting up and carrying out this importation."

Before passing sentence, Judge Thomas said that drug smuggling was "one of the worst offences that could be committed in our society". He recommended that all three defendants be deported after serving their sentences and ordered the seizure of £77,000 worth of the defendants' money under the Drugs Trafficking Offences Act 1986.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

The day the pound died

The end, when it came, was mercifully brief. Just before 12.30 on Wednesday, September 16, John Major, Norman Lamont and the inner cabinet gathered at Admiralty House. The dining room was adorned with



paintings of great naval figures and conflicts of a different era – one showed the Greek god Hercules rejecting, in the shape of two female figures, Pleasure for Virtue. The choice facing the gathering was less appetising, but just as stark...

A special insight investigation into the day the pound dropped out of the ERM – News Review, The Sunday Times tomorrow

Reagan wows bright young things at the Oxford Union

BY BILL FROST

CLEARLY determined to emphasise intellectual parity with his Oxford Union audience and a continuous interest in international affairs, Ronald Reagan yesterday delivered a speech laden with cultured allusions and prescriptions for world peace.

Acknowledging the cheers of the crowd with a slightly bemused but eternally grateful smile, Mr Reagan little realised how close he had come to minor disaster. Minutes before his triumphal arrival at the podium a chair was swapped. "Get another quick! There's paint on this one which could leave a nasty stain on the seat of his trousers," said a horrified member of the union to an anxious minion.

Mr Reagan seemed genuinely surprised by the warmth of his welcome from the bright, young audience. "I am delighted to be with you. In fact at my age, I'm delighted to be anywhere," he said to prolonged, if slightly facetious, applause.

The self-deprecating *bon mot* was the former president's only digression from a five-page text peppered with clarion calls to action against "tin horn" dictators, despots and brigands from Bosnia to the Horn of Africa. With the

aid of twin inconspicuous teleprompt screens, he quoted T S Eliot, Churchill, Arnold Toynbee and Disraeli.

He also dredged up a passage from Heine to vindicate his tarnished reputation on foreign affairs. Beaming as his confidence grew, he recalled that the German poet once said of an ambassador: "Ordinarily, he is insane, but he has lucid moments when he is only stupid. Some experts regarded me that way. Whenever I hear such comments I know I must be on to something."

As the laughter, not altogether kind, died down, Mr Reagan redeployed his serious world statesman look. "Let us be frank. Evil still stalks the planet."

He proposed air strikes against Greater Serbia and accused Nato of refusing to "cross the street" to stop wholesale slaughter. Allowing Belgrade a free hand to continue ethnic cleansing in Bosnia was silently acquiesced to mass murder. He also urged international action in Somalia and Sudan – "a humanitarian velvet glove

backed up by a steel fist military force."

The less concerned in the audience had begun to assume a slightly glazed expression towards the fifth page of Mr Reagan's address. Others, though, clung to every word.

As Mr Reagan sat down an oar was brought to the platform – a memento of his visit. Examining the blade, he appeared to ask his hosts whether he shouldn't have two to make up the set.

Once the Reagan cavalcade had left for lunch at Keble College with Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, students began dissecting the performance. Tim Short, an engineering student, said: "The reception was almost as good as we gave Eddie the Eagle and the game show host Jim Bowen."

Thomas Purify, a student at New College, said: "I come from Little Rock, Arkansas – Bill Clinton's home town. But Reagan is still the man. His spirit is undimmed; he's a fighter and that was one good speech from one fine world statesman."

Photograph, page 1

Sex attack sentence cut for bogus priest

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A BOGUS priest jailed for life for the sex attack of a mother of four in her home had his sentence reduced to six years by three appeal judges in Scotland yesterday.

They ruled that a life sentence was "excessive" for the attack by John Cronin, 21, who posed as a priest to gain entry to the home of the woman, who was active in Tory politics, saying he wished to make a donation to party funds.

As they talked, Cronin suddenly attacked the woman and subjected her to a severe sexual assault. He forced her to perform a number of indecent acts. He also tried to choke her and beat her with his fists and a poker.

Cronin, from Tranent, Lothian, also admitted a number of offences in Edinburgh between May 2 and May 21 this year while pretending to be Father Sean Mulligan, a parish priest from Limerick.

He posed as a priest to celebrate Mass at St Mary's Roman Catholic Cathedral in Edinburgh and later sparked a police alert by claiming he saw escaped IRA terrorist Nessian Quinlivan walking along the street.

He committed the sex attack while on bail after being arrested in connection with the alert. Lord McCloskey jailed Cronin for life at the High Court in Edinburgh in August. At the time the judge said: "In my judgment you are highly dangerous to the public." Psychiatric reports stated his behaviour was "outrageous, inexplicable and uncontrollable".

But Lord Cowie, who heard the appeal with Lord Murray and Lord Wylie, said the contents of the psychiatric report did not support the imposition of a life sentence.

The judges said the only occasion on which Cronin showed any sign of placing a member of the public at risk was during the assault on the woman, and that was not enough to justify a life sentence.

Cronin, who was described as "an evil Walter Mitty" character when he first appeared in court, smiled and waved to the public benches as he left the dock.

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An arbitration panel will avoid lengthy process of taking disputes to court

British sport seeks to put its house in order

The failure of the Aga Khan's action emphasises the importance of fairness by sports bodies

By CHARLES WOODHOUSE

TOP sports administrators will need no reminding after this week that sport is not above the law. But they may sleep more easily after the failure of the Aga Khan's challenge to the Jockey Club's disqualification of his 1989 Oaks winner, Aliysa, in the Court of Appeal yesterday.

The judgment came within 24 hours of the massive \$17.67 million (£11.78 million) damages awarded by a US court to the 400 metres world record holder Harry "Butch" Reynolds against the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) over a drugs-related ban.

At the same time, Salisbury Crown Court acquitted the Brentford footballer Gary Blissett of causing grievous bodily harm to John Uzell of Torquay United, who had to be operated on for a fractured left cheek bone and eye socket floor last year after a clash for the ball. English courts appear to trust more than their American counterparts in the fairness of sporting organisations' disciplinary procedures.

The Jockey Club case emphasises again the importance of sports bodies acting fairly and reasonably and within the terms of their own constitutions and disciplinary procedures. If they do so (and it is a big if), then as private bodies, albeit with powers that affect millions, the English courts will not subject their decisions to judicial review.

In the Court of Appeal the Master of the Rolls, Sir Thomas Bingham, accepted that while in many ways the Jockey Club's powers may be described as public, they were in no sense governmental.

For the Aga Khan, Sydney Kentridge QC had argued that the Jockey Club's monopolistic position meant it controlled not just a sport but an industry. Accordingly, its decisions should be subject to judicial review in the same way as for those of government departments, local authorities and other statutory bodies.

For the Jockey Club, Patrick Milmo QC had argued that its disciplinary committee was no more performing a public duty than an umpire deciding whether a ball was tampered with.

He argued successfully that there were no grounds for distinguishing the Jockey Club's powers in racing from other domestic controlling sports bodies such as the Lawn Tennis Association, the British Board of Boxing Control and

the Football Association. Unless successfully appealed in the House of Lords, yesterday's decision should reassure national and international sports bodies about the reluctance of the English courts to interfere with and second-guess their decisions.

Just over two years ago the IAAF had its drug rules and procedures challenged in the High Court by a Swiss runner, Sandra Gasser. She had argued two points. First, that the IAAF rules were an unreasonable restraint of trade because they imposed some absolute

offences rather than one depending on the guilt of the athlete. This argument was rejected by Mr Justice Scott, with her second argument that there were procedural irregularities relating to her drug testing which amounted to a breach of natural justice.

Mr Justice Scott said they were not and there was no unfairness.

However, Katrin Krabbe, the German sprinter, is considering coming to the English courts if the IAAF supports the German athletics authorities' four-year ban on

her after she had tested positive for drugs. Against this background of litigation, British sports bodies have been actively working to put their houses in order. Although not strictly part of the requirement of natural justice, it is now generally recognised that to deal effectively internally, sports bodies must have an appeal procedure as an essential safety valve. Thus, where a doping offence has taken place, disciplinary proceedings following a suspension will lead to a disciplinary committee hearing, with the

right of appeal to an independent tribunal. The word independent needs to be underlined, to ensure that those who hear the case have had no previous connection with it and no bias or prejudice.

As a further measure to ensure that sports disputes on matters such as dope testing and eligibility decisions avoid going to court, the Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR) is setting up a British Sports Arbitration Panel (BSAP). The intention is to resolve sporting disputes in-house, rather than subjecting

Appeal rejected, page 28

ITV loses programme rights

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

ITV is to challenge rules imposed yesterday by the Office of Fair Trading that could threaten the quality of its shows by restricting its ownership of programme rights.

Unless the Monopolies and

Mergers Commission overturns the ruling, ITV companies will be prevented from acquiring options to produce further series of any of its big hits, from *London's Burning* to *Coronation Street*. As the

new rules do not apply to the BBC, Channel 4 or BSkyB, any rival broadcaster will be able to bid against the channel for the rights to broadcast second and third runs of ITV-funded and produced programmes.

"This will put ITV at a massive disadvantage against all other UK channels," Greg Dyke, chairman of the ITV Association and chief executive of LWT, said. "We would be surprised if this could be described as fair trading in any circumstances. This is a charter for channels relying on secondary products and picking off the best of ITV."

ITV will also be barred from buying programme rights lasting longer than five years with an option for a further two. BBC, Channel 4 or BSkyB retain rights for unlimited periods.

Andrew Quinn, ITV's chief executive, said that the ruling would mean "one or two years of total instability". It would encourage the channel to spend up to 30 per cent less on original productions.

The ITV system outlined in this document is not the system individual companies bid for when applying for their licences and if this comes into effect companies might well wish to call into question their licence terms," Mr Dyke said. ITV companies face an annual bill from the Treasury of almost £500 million after last year's blind-bid auction.

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Channel 5 takes off

By OUR MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

CHANNEL 5 seems likely to begin broadcasting in London next autumn after Thames Television, the sole bidder, last night met its deadline to assure the Independent Television Commission that its funding was in place.

Negotiations with potential shareholders were concluded yesterday just hours before the 5pm deadline, but Thames declined to reveal its partners, saying only that "the necessary information" had been delivered to the regulator.

Few industry sources had expected Thames to find the financial backing to launch the channel or, after months

of failed negotiations, that Channel 5 would be awarded to anyone. The ITC will make its decision on December 17.

Thames and Moses Znaimer, the founder of Toronto's irreverent CityTV, plan to build a group of localised CityTV stations, beginning in London next autumn, then Manchester in 1994 and other cities to follow. It would broadcast 24-hour news, films and music.

Pearson, publisher of *The Financial Times* and a shareholder of BSkyB, is understood to be one of Thames' partners. There are believed to be two other investors.

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THE INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR THE PROTECTION OF HORSES

Ministers rethink rights of immigrants

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY
POLITICAL STAFF

MOUNTING pressure from Tory backbenchers has forced the government to reconsider plans to curb the number of immigrants and asylum seekers entering Britain. Conservative MPs protesting at proposals to abolish the appeal rights of visitors refused entry to Britain claimed yesterday that more colleagues have joined the campaign.

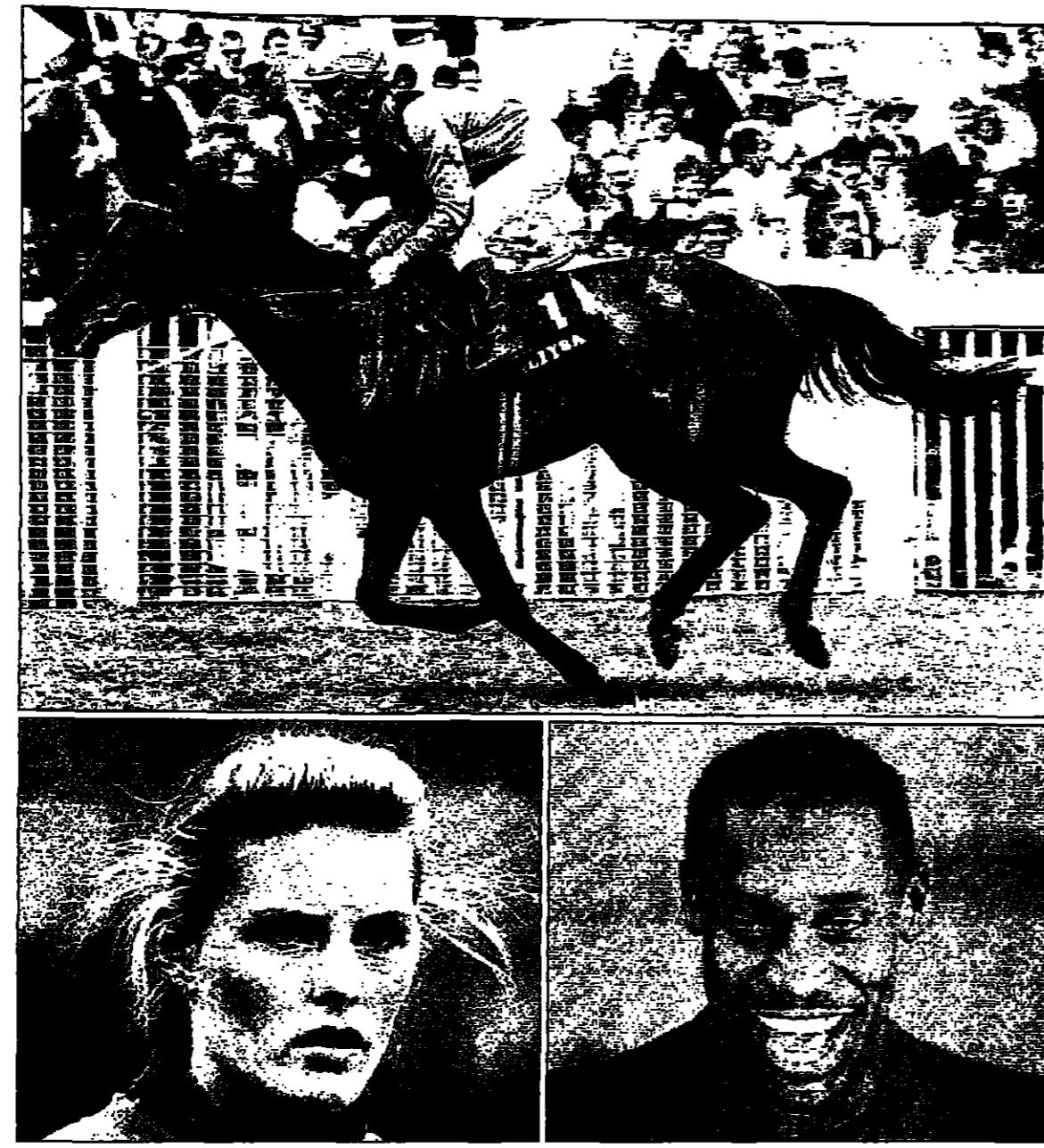
Up to 20 Conservative MPs are reported to have voiced opposition to a clause in the asylum and immigration appeals bill, which they claim will deny thousands of genuine applicants the right to visit their families in Britain.

The bill takes away the appeal rights of visitors and students applying to stay in Britain for less than six months. Charles Wardle, the immigration minister, met a delegation of Conservative MPs, many representing seats with large ethnic minority populations, to discuss the likelihood of amending clause nine of the bill. He is expected to announce a decision on Tuesday during the bill's committee stage.

They are worried that the removal of appeal rights might lead to corruption among high commission clearance officers, who could be confident that their decisions on immigration applications would not be re-examined. The minister ruled out substantial relaxation of the bill to allow extensive appeal procedures in Britain, but MPs are optimistic that he may offer a safety net by allowing an appeal process at high commission level.

The government believes the bill's tighter regulations will cut the number of immigration appeals and help to clear the backlog, which reached 27,000 last year.

Mr Wardle has also been forced to offer the possibility of concessions to stave off potential defeat in the Commons standing committee that is examining the bill. The minister faced cross-party opposition on the issue of giving unaccompanied children applying for asylum the right to be represented when being interviewed by immigration officials.



The ILPH is working.

Irish minister predicts poll deadlock will drag on till Christmas

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A NEW Irish government may not be formed until after Christmas, a senior member of the outgoing administration said yesterday.

Bertie Ahern, who continues as finance minister pending agreement on a new coalition following last week's election, said in Dublin that he expected negotiations to continue for more than three weeks. Mr Ahern, whose Fianna Fail party lost ten seats and looks unlikely to remain in power, did not believe, however, that political instability was exacerbating the difficulties of the Irish currency.

The caretaker administration run by Albert Reynolds, the outgoing prime minister, will represent Ireland at the European Commission summit in Edinburgh.

Nevertheless, if Mr Ahern's analysis is right, Ireland will be effectively without a government to cope with continuing assaults on the punt and speculation that a devaluation

is inevitable. The delay may also affect the next budget, due at the end of January.

Mr Ahern's comments came as the Irish Labour party confirmed its negotiations with Democratic Left, part of its effort to form a centre-left coalition with Fine Gael. The possibility of such a coalition depends to a large extent on the outcome of what is believed to be the longest election count in Irish history, in the Dublin South Central constituency.

The third full recount to decide whether the fourth seat in the constituency should go to Eric Byrne of Democratic Left or Ben Briscoe of Fianna Fail was expected to be concluded last night, after nine days of counting at the Royal Dublin Society. The indications were that Mr Briscoe may win the seat by as few as four votes. If the final result is very close, either one of the parties may petition the High Court to settle the matter.

He has repeatedly said that he wishes to lead a three-way coalition of Fine Gael, Progressive Democrats and Labour. The Labour party, however, remains determined to press ahead with its negotiations with Democratic Left and a joint platform may be agreed by Monday.



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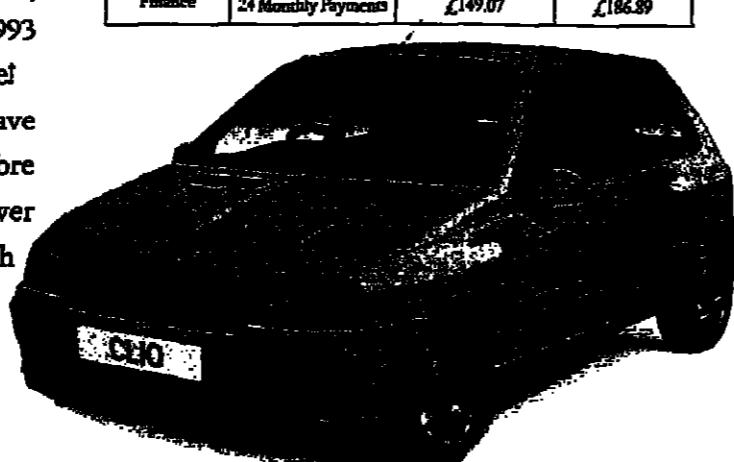
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Sex abuse 'almost run of the mill'

The case of a father jailed for using his young daughter as a plaything for perversions has been described by Lord Justice Watkins as "almost run of the mill".

Lord Justice Watkins and two other Court of Appeal judges cut to 12 years the man's sentence for "monstrous" sex offences against the girl when she was aged between four and eight. The man, 46, who cannot be named, was jailed for life at Manchester Crown Court on December 6 last year for unlawful sex, aiding and abetting unlawful sex and buggery. Orgies also involved the mother, who received a six-year jail sentence, and grandparents.

"There are many cases nowadays where wholesale abuse of children by parents have to be dealt with," he said. "Although it may seem strange to say this, it is not an exceptional or rare case. It is almost a run of the mill case, although a serious example."

Crash damages

Bryan Norman, 53, a City financial expert of Much Hadham, Hertfordshire, won £83,654 agreed damages in the High Court for being deprived of his £150,000 a year income when he suffered head injuries in a head-on collision.

Fire on ferry

A fire caused by an electrical wiring fault broke out on a Sealink ferry sailing from Dover to Newhaven. Twenty-four crew members were treated for smoke inhalation, but the 12 passengers on board were not affected.

Students riot

Mushinul Hasan, a professor in Delhi whose comments supporting Salman Rushdie sparked riots that closed his university for three months, was taken to hospital yesterday after Muslim students attacked him with knives on his first day back at work.

Chef fined

Raymond Blanc, owner of Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons, was banned from driving for six months and fined £350 after being caught speeding twice in five weeks. He drove at 130mph in his BMW to a meeting in London and at 95mph in a 50mph zone.

Osborne sale

The playwright John Osborne is placing for sale the original handwritten manuscript of *Look Back in Anger*, which was first produced in 1956. It is expected to fetch £30,000 to £40,000 at Sotheby's in London on December 14.

Briton's plea

Paul Ride, the Briton serving a seven-year jail term in Iraq, has written to Ken Bates, the chairman of Chelsea football club, asking him to persuade the prime minister to press for his release so he can return to watch Chelsea play.

Last pickings

Mike and Lorna Dolan will close the Fenland Farm Museum near Ely, Cambridgeshire, tomorrow after 23 years and 85,000 visitors.

Clinic helps phobics unbutton their fears

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THERE is no fear so compelling as that which is unexplained, according to Michael Whitenburgh. One woman is so terrified of buttons that she has had them removed from her clothes and replaced with Velcro fastenings.

A 60-year-old retired post office worker has not seen in the new year for 35 years because of her fear of tagpipes. "If I hear 'Mull of Kintyre', I go to pieces," she said.

Both were among 1,700 people who contacted Mr Whitenburgh's phobia clinic in Liverpool for help in just one month, prompting him to launch National Phobia Awareness week. "We wanted people to know they don't have to live with a phobia. We can crack them," Mr Whitenburgh said.

A young man treated at the clinic wanted to join the navy but suffered from an irrational fear of brushes. Mr Whitenburgh, who describes himself as a psychoanalyst, traced the fear to an experience in his early teens when he had a crew cut and was teased because his hair stood up like a scrubbing brush and

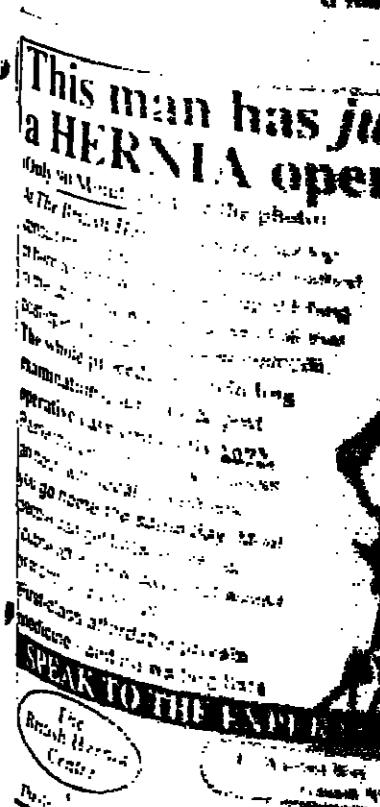
his ears stuck out like taxi doors.

"We've had a woman with a phobia of balloons," Mr Whitenburgh said. "If anyone lifts the cover off a cistern, she goes into a flat spin. We've had people with fears of waterfalls, dwarfs, Punch and Judy, as well as the commoner ones of flying and claustrophobia."

Some phobias create more serious problems, such as the games phobia suffered by a girl aged 6, who was so terrified of PE at school that she had nightmares. After she had refused to attend games classes for a year, her headteacher said that the national curriculum was being breached and warned her parents that he might have to expel her.

Some phobias turn out to be fatal. Adetoun Adegoke, a student nurse, was terrified of dogs and fell into a canal in east London and drowned last summer trying to avoid one.

One of the most widespread phobias, however, is fear of the Channel tunnel. "Dear old British Rail will keep me in business," Mr Whitenburgh said.



SPEAK TO THE EXPERTS
British Hernia Centre

NEWS
Sex
almost
of the

Farmers reap bumper harvest from Britain's ERM exit

By MICHAEL HORNBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S farmers can look forward to substantially higher incomes next year in spite of the recession and cuts in production subsidies imposed under the reform of the European Community's common agricultural policy (CAP).

Their relative good fortune, as well as the lack of a Gallic tradition of peasant revolt, helps to explain why the yeomen of England are not driving their tractors into the streets or dumping manure on the doorstep of John Gummer, the agriculture minister.

The immediate reason why farmers are cushioned against the nation's economic woes is the sharp devaluation of the pound since its suspension from the European exchange-rate mechanism in September. That factor, and other changes to the EC's arcane 'green currency' system, are likely by next month to give farmers an 18 per cent increase in the subsidies that form a large part of their income, even after allowing for the mini-surge in sterling's value in the past week.

Feed wheat should be fetching £140 a tonne, compared with the £120 farmers were expecting last June when the CAP reform was agreed; pay-

ments for leaving land fallow under the set-aside scheme will be about £100 an acre instead of £86; and compensation for cuts in support prices will be £57-£58 an acre, up from £48.

Jim Ward, head of agricultural research at Savills, the estate agents, said: "The immediate future is looking pretty rosy. Some high-yielding farmers may still suffer loss of

income under the CAP reform, but anyone growing 2.9 tonnes an acre or less, which covers most farmers, should clearly be better off."

EC farm subsidies are fixed in European currency units and then converted into national currencies at special "green" rates that lag behind real currency movements. From next month, with the advent of the single European

market, the "green" pound will be brought fully into line with the real pound and adjusted as necessary every month.

That means that any continuing fall in the value of sterling will translate almost immediately into higher subsidies for British farmers. Conversely, if the pound goes up, the sterling value of subsidies will come down, but the pound would have to make a dramatic recovery to wipe out all the depreciation of the past three months.

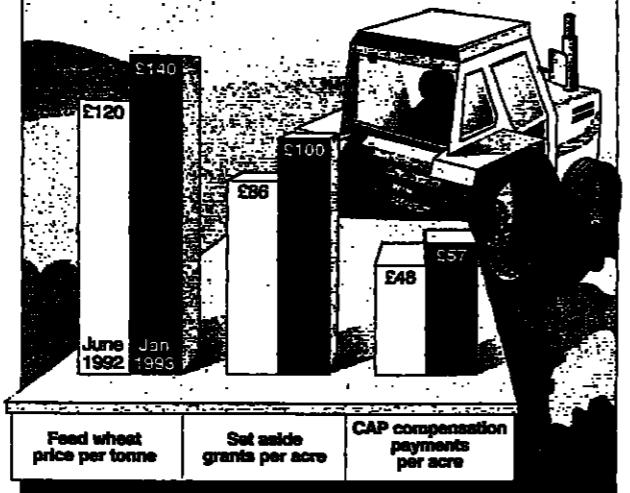
Even without the devaluation bonus, with prudent cost-cutting the average arable farmer should notice no loss of income under the CAP reform, says a survey of 390 farms in eastern England by the department of land economy at Cambridge University.

The study estimates that an average-sized farm of 467 acres will be making almost the same profit in real terms in 1993-4, after two years of CAP reform, as in 1990-1.

□ Report on Farming in the Eastern Counties of England 1990-1 (Department of Land Economy, 16-21 Silver Street, Cambridge CB3 9EL: £12.50)

Royal support, page 1

HOW STERLING DEVALUATION HAS BOOSTED FARMERS' INCOME



Birthday stroll: Father Francis McLachlan, who celebrated his hundredth birthday yesterday, taking his daily walk in the grounds of Belmont Abbey, Herefordshire. Fr McLachlan, who is believed to be the world's oldest Benedictine monk, marked the occasion by helping at his

own celebratory Mass, watched by members of his family from Paris. Fr McLachlan, who was born at Hackney, east London, entered the order at Belmont in 1920. He retired in 1976, after teaching and working in Lancashire, Cumbria, Hereford and Worcester, Merseyside and Cornwall.

Credo

Royals reflect our own image

The Rev Jonathan Sedgwick



This year has been a bad one for the royal family. Yet I believe we are mistaken in assuming that its events tell us primarily about the state of the monarchy. I suspect they say rather more about us. One of the earliest examples of the shifting sands of public opinion comes in the Christian Holy Week stories.

Jesus made a triumphal entry into Jerusalem but the celebrations were short-lived, and largely the same crowd would bay for His blood days later. It was as a projection of their aspirations that they cheered, and it was their disappointment that He was not what they would have Him be that turned them against Him.

At work in the relationship between us and our public figures is the projection of our needs and fears on to them, and it is most true of the monarch. What normally breaks down this one-way projection is real contact, and most of us are denied this.

Like the hosannas that greeted Christ's entry into Jerusalem, the fairytale monarchy that seemed so secure in the early eighties was at least in part our construction. It was our desire to have ideal, beautiful rich and romantic figures that created an image for the Prince and Princess of Wales. Just as it was the destructive desires of the crowd that crucified Jesus, so it is our desire to pry into the privacy of others, our appetite for scandal and our willingness to cast off images we have tarnished that threatens the monarchy.

The royal family has something to tell us that is probably more important than the endless speculation

□ The author is fellow and dean of divinity at Magdalen College, Oxford

Weekend section:
High spirits, page 1
At your service, page 9

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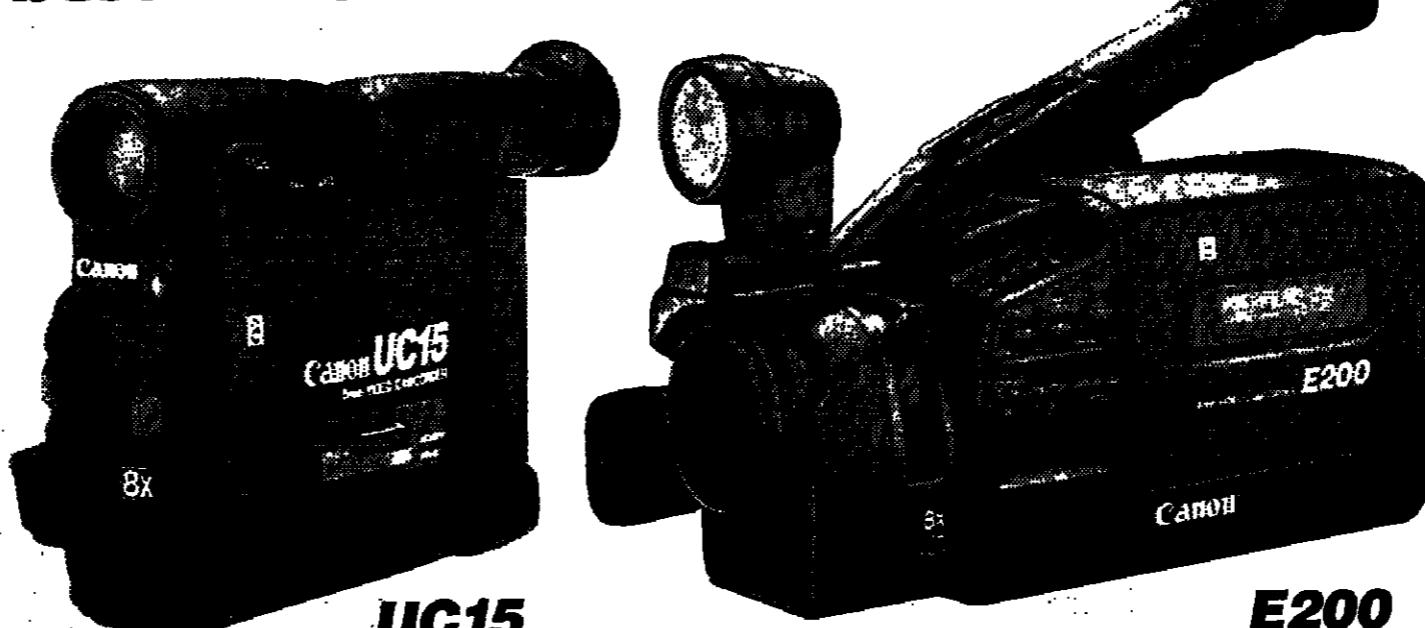
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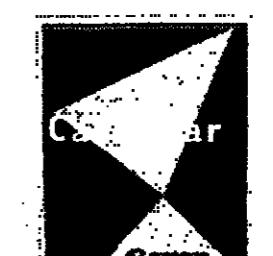
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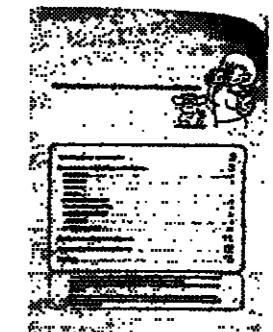
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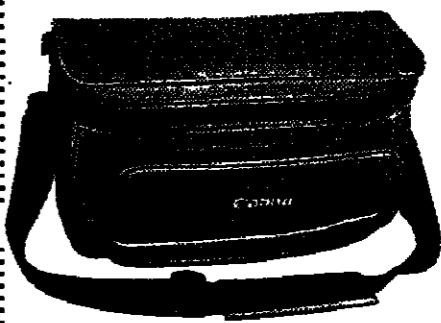
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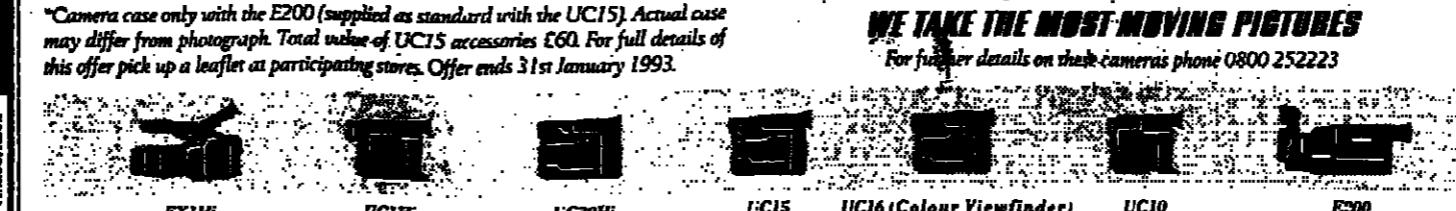
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General pledges to 'meet fire with fire'

Nineteen whites hurt in Cape cafe blast

FROM MICHAEL HAMEYN IN JOHANNESBURG

NINETEEN whites were hurt when a bomb exploded at the Spur restaurant in Queenstown in the Eastern Cape, a crowded fast-food cafe just before midnight. Eight people were kept in hospital, of whom five were seriously injured.

Following hard on the attack, General Johan van der Merwe, the country's police chief, said that his men "will meet fire with fire", and he warned the Azanian People's Liberation Army (Apla), which is being blamed for the bombings, that "any member of Apla who commits acts of aggression against the people of South Africa will be severely dealt with".

At the same time, three days of talks between the African National Congress and the South African government ended with a bland statement in bureaucratic language that both sides recognised the need for a speedy movement to a democratic form of government and that efforts must be made to resume the Conven-

tion for a Democratic South Africa (Codesa) in a more representative form.

General van der Merwe was given explicit backing for his stand against Apla by President de Klerk who, chatting to reporters after a meeting with Edouard Balladur, a former French finance minister, said: "We will not stand terrorism." He said that the government would act strongly to curb the violence, adding that the Apla action would have a profound effect on discussions with the Pan Africanist Congress. Apla is the armed wing of the PAC.

Andries Treurnicht, the right-wing Conservative Party leader, called for the banning of the PAC in the aftermath of the first bomb attack in King William's Town at the weekend, in which two white couples died and 17 people were injured. The hardline Herstigte national party has gone further and called for the immediate arrest of the PAC's leadership. The PAC's youth wing replied that any attempt

to carry out such action would lead to the deaths of more white people.

In fact, the chances of any serious white backlash are not large. The Nazi-style Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (AWB or Afrikaner Resistance Movement), led by the faintly ludicrous Eugene Terre Blanche, is at present supposedly carrying out protection patrols on the border with Transkei. The only result so far has been an accusation that a black man was beaten to death when he fell foul of an AWB commando.

Both the Queenstown bomb attack and the assault on the golf club party in King William's Town took place in the neck of land that separates the so-called independent Xhosa homelands, Transkei and Ciskei.

The PAC armed wing has not hitherto been highly regarded as a fighting force. However, some of its soldiers are now said to have been given training in Libya.



Welcome home: Blandino Momes, left, greets a friend after he and five UN colleagues were freed by guerrillas

Hostages tried to flee Khmer Rouge

FROM AFP
IN PHNOM PENH

SIX United Nations peacekeepers held hostage by Khmer Rouge guerrillas since Tuesday said that they tried to escape twice, but they were halted by gunfire. They were released yesterday.

The men dishevelled and covered with mosquito and flea bites, returned Phnom Penh from Kompong Thom province in central Cambodia visibly tired but in good health after their ordeal.

UN officials said that the three Britons, two Filipinos and a New Zealander were freed after Khmer Rouge leaders authorised their release. However, Mak Ben, a Khmer Rouge official, said the detention was justified because the troops were spying for the Phnom Penh government. He indicated that any other peacekeepers caught trespassing in Khmer Rouge territory would also be detained.

Isolated Indians welcome tourists

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS
IN ITANAGAR, ARUNACHAL PRADESH

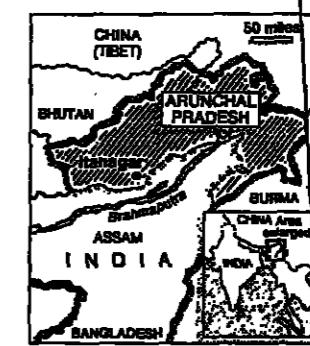
Most of the 26 tribes in the mountainous northeastern tip of India have never seen an outsider. The British sealed off the region in 1873, saving it from cultural destruction by Christian missionaries. The Indian government continued the isolation policy after independence in 1947, preserving it as one of the most unexplored and unknown corners of the world.

Last week the bastion fell. The Delhi government announced that tourists would be allowed to make controlled expeditions to two small districts, providing funds to modernise the last undeveloped part of India. The local administration, dominated by the comparatively well-educated Adi group of tribes, welcomed the move.

Some tribes have been changed almost overnight by the arrival of television. Aerials poke from the top of bamboo huts in villages adjoining a few twisting mountain tracks that provide tenuous communications with the outside world. Young men influenced by television wear T-shirts and jeans while their fathers still dress in local cloth and animal skins. Bamboo huts serve as cinemas in villages with electricity, filling the mountains with the sound of Hindi songs. But most tribes live far from such encroachments.

The outside world of corruption and political gerrymandering touches Itanagar, the hilly capital, with its population of 25,000. The Congress (I) party has engineered itself into a position of absolute rule in the 60-seat local assembly, and there are suspicions that local politicians are engaged in illegal logging.

There is no industry, no taxation and therefore no income. It is the only part of India without landlords, money-lenders or liquor-sellers, and there is no caste. Neither is there begging, nor hunger. When people from Arunachal visit other areas of India they are often mistaken as foreigners. "They think we are Chinese and ask to see our visa," says Nani Kojin, a journalist in Itanagar. He thinks the arrival of tourists will be generally welcomed. "We can't remain museum pieces for ever."



Bush set into S...
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US Marines will soon land at the White House's belief

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Hostages
tried to
flee Khmer
Rouge

Bush sends troops into Somalia to protect food airlift

■ US Marines will soon land in Mogadishu. The Pentagon does not share the White House's belief that the tour of duty will be short

By MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AMERICAN marines on board helicopters are expected to sweep into Mogadishu within days and secure the airport. They will protect a United Nations military airlift of food to starving Somalia, Pentagon officials announced last night.

President Bush briefed congressional leaders yesterday and last night addressed the nation to explain why he was sending thousands of American troops abroad in one of the largest armed humanitarian relief missions ever undertaken.

Defence officials said 28,000 American marines and soldiers could be deployed to relieve the drought-affected and war-torn East African country after the UN Security Council unanimously voted on Thursday to authorise military intervention.

An amphibious task force of 1,800 marines is anchored off the capital, Mogadishu, and could enter the city early next week or even this weekend.

The aircraft carrier *Ranger* and two warships were also apparently being diverted from the Gulf to Somalia to lend support.

In Bonn, President Mitterrand said that France would send between 1,500 and 2,000 troops to Somalia to help in protecting aid. The goal is to stay until we reach a breakthrough in this tragic situation," he said. Italy, Belgium, Canada, Egypt, Morocco, and possibly Nigeria are also expected to contribute small troop contingents to give the American-led operation an international appearance and counter Third World fears of American colonialism. Japan said it would contribute money.

In London, Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, overseas development minister, announced that Britain is to give an extra \$4.5 million to help the relief effort in Somalia. The government also announced the deployment of RAF military transport aircraft to Somalia.

In Mogadishu, a senior French official said that armed gangs and militias had begun to leave the Somali capital, faced with the certainty of military intervention. Bernard Kouchner, minister for humanitarian action, said that the "atmosphere has



changed" since the UN vote. Pakistani peacekeeping soldiers shot dead a Somali gunman and wounded two others in a battle at Mogadishu airport yesterday. Witnesses said fighting erupted when a "technical", the heavily armed battle wagons used by the Somali militias, swung into the airport and opened fire on Pakistani UN soldiers.

The Pentagon said American troops would not go in with "guns blazing", insisting their purpose was simply to create a secure environment for humanitarian relief operations. However, the forces would retaliate if attacked. Bill Clinton, the president-elect, hailed the UN vote as an "historic and welcome step" that provided new hope to millions of Somalis. He praised Mr Bush for "taking the lead in this important humanitarian effort".

Congressional Democrats have expressed more cautious support for the operation, but before the president's briefing they were alarmed at the lack of a clearly defined mission or timetable for withdrawal, and at the potential cost. Pentagon officials do not share the White House belief that the troops could complete their task and pull out before Mr Clinton's inauguration on January 20. They believe it could take months.

According to Carl Mundy, the Marine Corps commandant, the 1,800 marines will first make an amphibious and helicopter landing in Mogadishu and pave the way for the arrival of their colleagues. The initial task will be primarily a huge engineering project. Mogadishu airport is one of two in Somalia capable of

receiving American transport planes, but the runway is in disrepair and there is no space for parking a large number of military aircraft. The port may be too shallow for military cargo vessels.

While the troops will be flown in, most of the supplies for the operation will be delivered by four pre-positioned Marine ships based at Diego Garcia, the British island territory in the southern Indian Ocean. They carry water purification plants, fuel, bulldozers, armoured vehicles and other heavy equipment. Only when Mogadishu had been secured and staging areas established would the troops begin securing roads into the country for the distribution of relief supplies.



Agony of Africa: a teenage Somali boy, turned away from relief centres for days because they have only limited supplies, awaiting the arrival of American troops in Mogadishu to protect international aid convoys

Patten reforms win Nixon's backing

By MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND CATHERINE SAMSON IN PEKING



RICHARD Nixon, the former American president, has expressed strong backing for Chris Patten's proposals to expand democracy in Hong Kong, and American support for the governor's stand appears to be growing.

Neither President Bush nor Bill Clinton, the president-elect, have commented publicly on Mr Patten's proposals, but the State Department has issued a supportive statement. Media comment, particularly in *The Wall Street Journal*, has been favourable. Mr Patten plans to visit America soon after Mr Clinton's inauguration and hopes the new president will agree to see him.

Such a meeting would send a strong signal to China because America retains considerable influence over the Chinese leadership. Mr Clinton's campaign threats to remove China's preferential trading status unless its conduct improved has alarmed Peking's ageing leadership.

Lord Howe of Aberavon, who negotiated the Sino-British Joint Declaration on Hong Kong while foreign secretary, said yesterday that he believed the Chinese would eventually change their minds about Mr Patten's proposals for widening democracy.

Lord Howe, visiting Peking as the head of a human rights delegation, described China's recent attacks on the governor's proposals as over-simplified denunciations. "I do not believe that will be the long-run position," he said. "I think that China will recognise that Mr Patten as governor is doing a very important job conscientiously and is seeking to find the best way forward compatible with the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law. These situations do not endure indefinitely without the

prospect of some forward movement."

Mr Nixon, who reopened US-Chinese relations in 1972, said he would take "a hard line" in support of Mr Patten.

The governor was "reflecting the opinions of the people of Hong Kong which, incidentally, are also the views of the American people".

Speaking in London, Mr Nixon said the Chinese would "huff and puff" at Mr Patten's plans, but ultimately would be restrained by two considerations: Hong Kong was their gateway to the West and they needed to prove to Taiwan that they meant to keep their promise of "one country, two systems".

Mr Nixon added: "If they reject democracy in Hong Kong, they will close out any chance of making that impression on the Taiwanese."

The State Department has called Mr Patten's proposals a "constructive approach to the goal of the democratisation of Hong Kong". A *Wall Street Journal* editorial on Wednesday lavished praise on Mr Patten, saying he had "flushed China into the open".

There's over seven pounds difference between them.



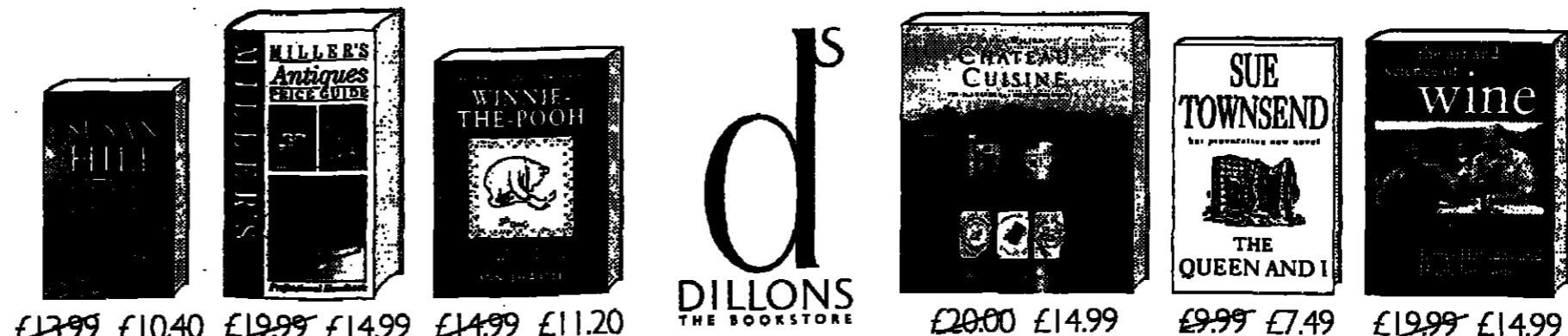
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OVERSEAS NEWS

Lee resigns as party leader

Singapore: Lee Kuan Yew, the former prime minister, 69, resigned as leader of the People's Action party that he helped to launch 38 years ago. He suggested that Goh Chok Tong, the present prime minister, should take over. (AP)

Treaty signed

Bangkok: Burma has signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Radio Rangoon said. The radio said a representative of Rangoon's military junta had signed the treaty in Washington. (AP)

Rice appeal

Hanoi: Vietnam is collecting donations so that it can ship rice to Cuba. Civil servants have been asked to donate a day's salary towards the 10,000-tonne cargo. (Reuters)

Bush estate

Stuart, Florida: President's Bush mother, Dorothy, left much of her multi-million-dollar estate to her five children and 16 grandchildren. She also left \$2,000 to her former cook. (AP)

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Britain wants EC to abandon more than 30 directives

■ Britain has put subsidiarity firmly on the Edinburgh agenda. The Danish opposition does not think the proposals go far enough

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

THE British presidency of the European Community will present next week's Edinburgh summit with a list of proposed and existing EC laws that it believes should be scrapped.

The list, leaked by a Labour MEP, is the clearest attack yet on the powers of Brussels, and will inevitably be condemned by Jacques Delors, the president of the European Commission, who will put forward an alternative, smaller-scale list of questionable EC laws. The British presidency calls for more than 30 proposed EC laws to be scrapped. It also believes existing legislation, such as the bathing waters

directive should be deleted from the statute books. By naming EC laws it doesn't want, the presidency has thrown light on the obscure subject of "subsidiarity" — and has added fuel to what promises to be a fiery summit.

Many of the directives targeted by Britain are the work of Brussels' two most controversial commissioners of recent years, Carlo Ripa di Meana, formerly in charge of environmental affairs, and Vassil Papandrea, social affairs commissioner, who will leave Brussels at the end of the year. Directives that may be deleted include plans for a 48-hour working week and com-

mon blood alcohol limits for drink-driving charges. Plans for workers' councils, and the harmonisation of speed limits are also listed.

Ken Collins, the Labour MEP for Strathclyde East, who leaked the British paper, said yesterday: "It's quite disgraceful; the British presidency's trying to tear the heart out of Europe." Both the EC laws that have landed Britain in the dock of the EC Court of Justice recently — on the quality of bathing waters and drinking waters — are on a separate list of existing laws to be cancelled, Mr Collins said.

A British spokesman said: "We happen to think our own legislation on these things is rather good and we'd like to change as little as possible."

In an attempt to make the Maastricht treaty acceptable to Danish voters, the British presidency looks set to call for a confirmation by the summit of Denmark's request for opt-outs from a common currency and defence policy, EC citizenship and EC legal co-operation. EC legal experts have questioned whether such a confirmation, which would have less weight than the treaty itself, would stand up in a court of law. But yesterday in Copenhagen, Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, Denmark's foreign minister, said there were now "good possibilities to reach a final solution" at Edinburgh. He said there was agreement between all Danish parties on the legality of the British proposal. A spokesman for the Socialist People's Party said the British proposal did not go far enough.

In Paris, there was further evidence that France, at some stage, would reject the US-EC deal over farm subsidies. Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the industry and trade minister, said: "The whole agreement does not reflect the fairness we wanted. We also want the US to reduce subsidies to its farmers."

■ Washington: The Bush administration yesterday revoked the punitive 200 per cent tariffs on \$300 million (£189 million) of European farm products that were due to take effect today. Carla Hills, the American trade representative, said that now that the agreement on EC farm subsidies had been confirmed in writing, the tariffs were unnecessary.

Bumper harvests page 7
Letters, page 13

Swiss vote poised on the knife edge

BY GEORGE BROCK

SWITZERLAND is a country where nearly half the population brush their teeth three times a day, stand-up comics wear cardigans and Tamil asylum-seekers sell advent candles unmolested by the lakeside in Lucerne.

Today and tomorrow, the people of Switzerland vote on whether to join the single market due to be formed by merging the trading areas of the European Community and the Scandinavian and alpine states of the European Free Trade Association. Europe's "other" treaty has been overshadowed by the wrangles over Maastricht at the Western end of the continent, but the Swiss referendum is a test of whether the country turns inwards, outwards — or even splits up. Polls suggest that the result is very finely balanced.

For Hanspeter Kraeslin, sitting in the warmth of a public house in the mountain village of Stans, Europe is a long way from Switzerland and he does not want it coming any closer. Mr Kraeslin, a farmer, is a councillor and man of some influence in the tiny German-speaking canton of Nidwald and he will be voting "No". He acknowledges that the giant trading area will be assembled with or without the Swiss, but he is suspicious that devious outsiders are trying to steal Switzerland's soul. "But we will surmount the difficulties," Mr Kraeslin says, "in this treaty there are too many

regulations. You need simple local rules to take decisions."

For advice and support, Mr Kraeslin has brought along Dr Willy Futterknecht, the local Euro-expert. Against the argument that Switzerland must join the treaty to protect its export markets, Dr Futterknecht has a trump card. He brandishes an open letter from the head of the little factory near by which makes the world famous red Swiss Army penknives. Ninety per cent of the firm's work goes abroad but the knife-grinders are solidly hostile to any entanglement with "Euro-Babylon". Dr Futterknecht says: "We don't need anything from Brussels." Sitting in the cosmopolitan chic of the Federal cafe across the square from the parliament in Berne, José Bessard struggles manfully against this "truculent insularity". His government department issues floppy discs, balloons, buttons and books which explain that Switzerland is not being asked to join the EC and that the country cannot join the new market without sacrificing some of its laws to the new "Eurolex" system created by the EC Twelve.

The Swiss have hibernated away from international politics for centuries. "We resisted Hitler during the last war," the treaty's leading opponent, Christoph Blocher, told a television debate, "and we can hold back foreigners again."

Bumper harvests page 7
Letters, page 13

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Macedonia issue threatens to dominate EC summit

RECOGNITION of Macedonia is one of the most divisive issues on the agenda of the Edinburgh summit, one that is likely to generate long argument and lead to diplomatic deadlock.

Despite a friendly Downing Street meeting on Thursday evening between John Major and President Gligorov of Macedonia, Britain sees little hope of compromise in the bitter feud between Greece and its northern neighbour.

Robin O'Neill, the diplomat asked by the British presidency to mediate between Athens and Skopje, has made little headway. Neither side is ready to compromise over the use of the word Macedonia in the former Yugoslav republic's name.

In June the European Community summit in Lisbon decided to withhold recognition but there is mounting pressure for that to be reversed. Led by the Dutch, several EC members, includ-

EC members could sour relations with Greece if they give in to pressure to recognise Macedonia. Michael Binyon writes

ing Britain and Germany, argue that non-recognition is illogical and dangerous. They say that Macedonia has fulfilled all the conditions set by the EC for recognition of other former Yugoslav republics. Leaving Skopje in limbo has deprived it of vital EC aid, is increasing fissiparous nationalist pressures on Mr Gligorov and could lead to ethnic tensions that might erupt in a conflict that would draw in all Macedonia's neighbours.

Greece, however, insists that the issue is of vital national importance and is appealing for EC solidarity. Greek public opinion is inflamed at what it sees as an

attempt to steal Greek history and culture and at implicit territorial claims on northern Greece. Constantine Mitsotakis, the prime minister, has said his centre-right government would collapse if there were any change in EC policy.

The point was forcefully made to Mr Major during his recent Athens visit, and will again be underlined by Michaelis Papaconstantinou, the foreign minister, to his EC colleagues in Brussels on Monday. Greece is threatening unilateral measures if Macedonia is recognised, including closing its northern border, a total trade boycott and non-cooperation with the EC in other fields.

If the EC ignores Greek pleas and overturns the Lisbon declaration, Macedonia will effectively be cut off. It depends on the port of Thessaloniki and the rail link north for almost all imports and exports. The links through Serbia are blocked; the road to Albania is impassable; the only exit route is the poor road east to Bulgaria. Despite Greek claims that they have sent 40,000 tonnes of oil north this year, Macedonians say they are already suffering a devastating economic blockade by Greece.

Mr Gligorov and Denko Maleski, his foreign minister,

Macedonia's security and that Greece expects the same EC solidarity as Denmark does over Maastricht. She points out that Greece has obtained a guarantee from all the republic's neighbours that its borders are inviolable.

Greece accuses Mr Gligorov of mounting a propaganda campaign at the expense of economic development, of continuing the policies of Stalin and Tito in creating an artificial nationality, of refusing the proposed compromise of a double name, and of using the name and star emblem of Philip II as a cover for territorial expansion.

The wrangling on this issue could do lasting damage to Greek relations with the EC, and would certainly make a common foreign policy more difficult to achieve in other areas. Macedonia would then take its case to the United Nations, as America and several other countries are waiting for an EC lead before taking a decision on recognition.

Reagan speech, page 3
Leading article, page 13



Yeltsin supporters call for referendum to beat Congress

■ President Yeltsin is being driven by hardliners to dissolve the full parliament. His moderate critics are eyeing cabinet posts

FROM ANNE MC ELVOY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin battled yesterday to save his reforms after the conservative Congress of People's Deputies condemned the record of his government and demanded fundamental policy changes.

The resolution, passed by an overwhelming majority, indicates a hardening of hostility towards the government and makes it more likely that Mr Yeltsin will have to take emergency steps to ensure that his reforms continue.

The swing against the president enraged Vyacheslav Kozyuk, his spokesman, who

said the Congress's antipathy might mean Mr Yeltsin would be forced to hold a referendum to dissolve it. That would need support from a third of the deputies or a petition with a million signatures but is considered risky because it would polarise the country at a time when the government is asking moderate political forces to unite in the face of economic hardship and the threat of nationalist extremism.

Asked if Mr Yeltsin would be prepared to bypass the constitution and simply dissolve the country's ruling body, Mr Kostikov said: "I do not exclude such a possibility."

Mr Yeltsin urged deputies to reject the proposals that would strip him of his powers to appoint a government and in effect allow the hardline-dominated parliament to run the country. He said their adoption would damage Russia's statehood and turn the government into "a spineless appendage". He added: "You would get weak government, regardless of who heads it. The whole executive power would be damaged and reform would be in question." The special powers by which he has ruled Russia since March ran out on Tuesday and must be granted anew by the Congress.

Opponents of Mr Yeltsin have won some procedural votes with almost the two-thirds majority they would need to pass the amendments that would tame the radical government. Deputies, however, are fickle and Mr Yeltsin's strategy appears to be to frighten deputies into backing down by threatening chaos in the country unless they approve his powers. The Congress will reconvene today to vote on the amendments.

The government believes that the Supreme Soviet is hampering its ability to carry out policy. Under the sway of Ruslan Khasbulatov, its conservative chairman, the parliament has blocked many reform moves in recent months and Mr Khasbulatov declared this week that he disagreed with the government not only over the pace of reforms but also over their basic aims.

The Yeltsin camp is disappointed that informal agreements with centre-right elements of Civic Union to stabilise the government have not materialised, with several votes showing hardliners rather than centre-contrarians to be in control. "Today's events have shown that the Congress was deeply conservative from the start," Mr Kostikov said. "The more sacrifices the government presents, the more aggressive it becomes." He said that other ministers intended to resign if the assembly did not accept the continuation in office of Yegor Gaidar, the radical acting prime minister.

Andrei Nechayev, the economic minister, called the move to subject the government to the Congress's whim "a constitutional coup" and said the entire cabinet would resign if the legislature did not back Mr Yeltsin and Mr Gaidar. Despite the colourful debates that dominate proceedings, much of the real bargaining is done behind the scenes in traditional Kremlin style and many of Mr Yeltsin's supporters believe that a deal with Civic Union on cabinet portfolios may well be the outcome of the deadlock.

"The price for keeping Mr Gaidar in office may well be four or five posts for the union," said Igor Golombovsky, editor-in-chief of the liberal *Izvestia* newspaper. "The big squeeze is now on and the options are limited," he added.

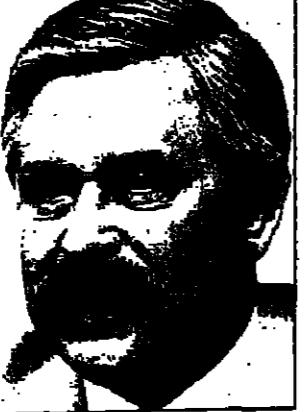
Yeltsin on the edge, page 12

YEGOR Gaidar, 36, a brilliant, workaholic academic and journalist. Russia's acting prime minister and architect of economic reform. The doggedness of his commitment to market economics has won him widespread respect in the West and some grudging admiration at home. The son of a famous children's writer and grandson of a distinguished admiral, Mr Gaidar used his establishment credentials to undermine the Soviet system from within; he was economics editor of a prestigious journal and later of *Pravda* in the final years of communism.



RUSLAN Khasbulatov, 50, a mysterious figure in Russian political life and the parliamentary chairman who emerged in 1990 as a leading advocate of political and economic change. Has this year shifted his position and made repeated attacks on fast-track reform. A skillful manipulator of parliamentary procedure, the chain-smoking economics professor has often caused outrage. He deserted the cabinet last spring as worms and then — despite tape-recorded evidence — denied having done so. He is conscious of his roots among the Chechen warrior race.

ARKADY Volksy, 60, a skilled and influential political operator, is a former party apparatchik who now presents himself as spokesman for bosses and workers at Russia's giant industrial plants. This summer he founded "Renewal", a group that lobbied on behalf of factory directors struggling with market reforms, and then helped to found the Civic Union, which aimed to become chief power-broker in the legislature. He says he supports reforms, though at a slower pace than Mr Gaidar advocates. He was an adviser to Andropov and Chernomyrdin.



ALEKSANDR Rutskoi, 45, a dashing air force officer who shot down twice during bombing raids in Afghanistan. The vice-president personifies one important faction in the Yeltsin camp: the faction that rejects the ideology of Marxism but retains the idea of Russia as a great power. He emerged last year as leader of a "liberal communist" parliamentary faction which delivered key votes to Mr Yeltsin. While broadly loyal to Mr Yeltsin, he has attacked the Gaidar cabinet and called for a tough line towards other former Soviet republics.



Close up: a Russian deputy tries to get a better view of President Yeltsin at the people's Congress in Moscow yesterday. The Congress passed a resolution condemning the government's record, thus narrowing Mr Yeltsin's means of ensuring that his reforms continue

Baby food to reach Vitez by Christmas

BY RUTH GLEDHILL

THE 1st AID appeal, which aims to raise £1 million for immediate disaster relief by January 1, is about to fund its first mission.

The appeal is financing a life-saving delivery of baby food to the former Yugoslavia. The baby food will be delivered to refugees near Vitez and Travnik in Bosnia before Christmas.

Refugees living in freezing conditions in temporary homes, or in what remains of their houses after shelling, are being forced to feed babies and young children on watery soup or bread dipped in tea. Many homes are without heating, light or proper shelter.

Shortages of baby food are chronic, and even more severe than the shortages of adult food.

The supplies will be taken to Split, Croatia, in a 20-ton lorry by Feed the Children, the largest British agency taking aid directly to former Yugoslavia.

From Split it will be transferred to four-wheel drive trucks to be ferried across the border to Vitez, Feed the Children's base in Bosnia, then to go immediately to refugees in Travnik and elsewhere. The food should be with the mothers and babies

within 10 days of the start of the appeal. "The food is going to refugees who have been turned out on the road with nothing, who are camped in schools or in what is left of their homes,"

Robert Kandt, 1st AID appeals director, said: "This mission indicates how 1st AID will work. Feed the Children is taking the supplies; we are simply giving them the money to enable them to do it." 1st AID is being co-ordinated by the World Memorial Fund for Disaster Relief, an international charity set up in 1989 by the late Lord Cheshire with United Nations backing.

The Charities Aid Foundation will be responsible for all aspects of banking and donation costs of 1st AID. Donations can be made by telephoning the credit card hotline on 0272-226688 (24 hours); cheque/postal order payable to 1st AID and sent to 1st AID Appeal, c/o CAF

Freepost TN 2257, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5BR; or over the counter at any Bradford & Bingley Building Society or Midland Bank branch.

Stewart Crocker, fund-raising director of Feed the Children, said the lorry was one of about 20 travelling to the former Yugoslavia that week.

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Building society proposals to discriminate in favour of married couples are unfair, unjust and unworkable, argues Matthew Parris

Single, childless people are to pay more for our mortgages. The Bristol & West building society is considering differential interest rates, loaded against single people because we are the type of individual they think more likely to default. "Not bonded by marriage" is the delicate phrase chosen by Tony Fitzsimons, their chief executive, to describe our fickle and uncreditworthy natures.

Ha! So it has come to this? My fury was aggravated by the knowledge that I have no mortgage with the Bristol & West and am therefore denied the pleasure of marching down to the nearest branch to withdraw it and take my custom elsewhere.

So I had been alternately cursing and brooding (we single people, when not busy defaulting on debts, are subject to wild swings of mood) and kicking things.

My rage swelled as news about the new council tax was announced. My bill, it seems, may

approach £1,000. For this I get my dustbin emptied once a week by the Derbyshire Dales district council. The rest of the money goes to help the county council educate the children I don't have, fund the social services department's work dealing with wife-beating and domestic violence among married couples, build the council houses for which they have priority on the waiting list, repair the bus shelters smashed by their kids, and care for them in old age when the offspring upon whom they have blown all their savings desert them.

Where will it end? Shall single Telecom subscribers pay a surcharge because we are more likely to default? What about the interest rates on our Visa cards? Should we be allowed to drive cars at all, our

motoring habits being unrestrained by any fear of orphaning little dependants? Perhaps we should be restricted to humdrum employment in posts of a non-sensitive sort, unguided as we are by concern for posterity.

Matrimony! Bah! Humbug! Then I read *The Times* leading article. My blood ran cold. It supported the Bristol & West. This move, it argued, was "no less discriminatory than the policy of motor insurers who charge twice as much to a 23-year-old driving a hot hatchback as to a 55-year-old

grandmother". Notice that?

There they go again. She's a grandmother who's presumably incapable of jumping a red light. Ah no, argues *The Times*, loading

premiums against whole categories of individuals on the basis of half-cock actuarial generalisations is, they accept, rough justice on the untypical safe 23-year-old driver, but he just has to accept that he is part of a class of motorist who scores badly.

So if I were to discover (say) that one of the ethnic groups making up our population has an appreciably worse motoring record than another, then *The Times* would really behind colour-testing for insurance premiums?

And I will tell you something else. Mr Times leaderwriter: The only reason the 23-year-old takes out motor insurance at all is because it is compulsory. If the

motor insurance business was a genuinely free market instead of a state-sponsored scam, then individuals agreed that the insurer was failing to assess them as individuals and lumping them into crude and inappropriate classes, would screw up their cover notes and stuff them where I would be stuffing my Bristol & West mortgage deeds, if I had any.

Which moves me from my extended harrumph to the gravamen of my complaint. Let me put the building society argument as fairly as I can, then reply.

The Bristol & West say that there is nothing inherently unjust about making good risks pay for bad risks. To lump us all together without regard for our own particulars is rough justice, but insurers

have to do it to some degree. Until now, all mortgagees have been treated as an undifferentiated mass, and charged the same. The better risks have been subsidised the worst. It is to rectify that that the Bristol & West wants to create sub-species among mortgagees and differentiate. They accept that some injustices will result, but argue that this is the cost of mitigating a larger injustice.

And my reply? In logic they are right. Indeed their logic can be taken further. It might prove applicable to racial groupings who might have different cultural attitudes towards debt. It might apply to gender differences: women are better debtors than men. Single homosexual men, furthermore, are better risks than single heterosexual

The battle for Russia's soul

Hardliners are poised to derail Yeltsin's plans, says Anne McElvoy

Set-piece power struggles are built into the fabric of Russian history. The old Leninist question of who wields the power, in whose name and for whose benefit is at the core of this week's events in Kremlin palace, home to Russia's Congress of People's Deputies.

The outcome of the assembly will determine whether the reforms begun by President Yeltsin can continue. The alternative is a triumph for the hardliners who are seeking a reversal of the radical changes and would set the country back on the road to centralism.

Unlike the revolutionaries of 1917, Boris Yeltsin does not have the option of ruthlessly violent methods, followed by administrative repression, to ensure that his vision of Russia holds sway. Such is the price of democracy.

Congress so far has not been a success for the Yeltsin team. It meets at the nadir of the reform programme with inflation and unemployment rising, and the rouble

His opponents all have an interest in protecting themselves from further radical reforms

plummeting. The president's opponents believe that a return to centralism can keep unprofitable factories open and the workers employed while still pursuing reform.

The recommendations of the Civic Union, which ranks as the moderate alternative to the present strategy, although hidden behind the slogan "slower-paced reform", would signal an end to the transition to a market economy. It believes the state should bail out the bloated military-industrial enterprises which Stalin created and the Cold War sustained.

The forces of the reformers and hinderers is finely balanced but many of the votes, such as yesterday's resolution demanding fundamental changes to the reform programme, indicate that a broad church of unreconstructed communists, military men and pragmatic industrialists are in the majority. All have an interest in protecting themselves from radical changes to their state-protected influence.

In an ideal world the Congress would not be taking place at all. A vestige of the Gorbachev years packed with former communists, it is a kangaroo court of conservatism presiding over a reformist government. Mr Yeltsin is quite right to pursue with vigour the separation of executive and legislative powers. Most worrying is the number of

America is taking up the white man's burden with its misguided intervention in Somalia

This caring imperialism

*Take up the White Man's burden
Fill the mouth of famine
And bid the sickness cease.*

This is the way a war starts, not with a bang but a slyther. The British government is being sucked into three distant conflicts at the behest of American (and some British) public opinion. It must resist.

Not content with trying to democratise Cambodia and partition Iraq, a transitional American government appears to be steering itself to go to war with what passes for Somalia and Serbia. As is now customary, these wars are surrounded with euphemism. They are under a "multilateral UN umbrella". They are to keep the peace, monitor democracy, protect aid. Soldiers merely escort convoys and enforce exclusion zones — until things go wrong. Then public opinion reacts and people like

SIMON DENYNS

Douglas Hurd get "very angry". Soldiers start killing and getting killed. When we stopped trying to police Beirut in 1984 — a classic "humanitarian" operation — thousands lay dead; over 200 of them "ours".

The itch to intervene is round again. A War Party is in full cry, most strident in the American press. The *New York Times*, *Washington Post* and *International Herald Tribune* run daily calls to arms. Columnists Anthony Lewis, Jim Hoagland and Leslie Gelb rewrite scripts for *Or What a Lovely War*. Lewis trumpets Somalia as a "world scandal" (surely it is a Somalian scandal). The arms lobby is back on parade, talking of "precision targeting", Serbian guns and disabling Serbian transport. "Serbia cannot win," they crow in tones recalling General Westmoreland. Soon their bombers will be "taking out terrorist villages". Britain's Paddy Ashdown says that one base on the nose from Our Boys will have Johnny Serb crawling back to Belgrade.

There are already 20,000 foreign troops in former Yugoslavia, the largest UN force assembled since Korea. That number has topped the second largest, 16,000, in Phnom Penh, where it is trying to decide whether to defend Cambodian democracy against the renascent Khmer Rouge or turn tail and flee. That awful dilemma was predictable from the start of this mad venture, but nobody thought to think. Undaunted, the UN is sending 28,000 Americans ashore in Somalia, where each warrior has offered them an ominous welcome. In Mogadishu, extorting aid workers is the only business in town. Now it is to be extorting Americans.

Washington will have either to rule Somalia indefinitely and against growing local resistance or support one of the warlords, swamp him with weapons and get out. In the latter case, anarchy and famine will simply resume until, as in Mozambique and Liberia, exhaustion or a neighbouring power takes over. We learn nothing from the history of these civil wars. The only victor is the arms salesman. The only yield a glow of moral contentment for editorial writers. In Ku-



Heading towards a savage war of peace: the West is in danger of being embroiled in an unwinnable conflict

The *Herold Tribune* reports that American strategy in Somalia is simple to intimidate the warlords by "blowing up one of their pickups with an M1 tank". Then a "political and administrative structure" will be set up and the Americans can leave by January 20. Much the same was said in Vietnam. We are told by the *Financial Times* that "a well paid and trained Somali police force will have to be established... Once in place and the cycle of criminality broken, foreign troops can retreat to a minimum role and the UN can sponsor a national conference to prepare the way for elections." Every report from the ground shows this is fantasy.

Washington will have either to rule Somalia indefinitely and against growing local resistance or support one of the warlords, swamp him with weapons and get out. In the latter case, anarchy and famine will simply resume until, as in Mozambique and Liberia, exhaustion or a neighbouring power takes over. We learn nothing from the history of these civil wars. The only victor is the arms salesman. The only yield a glow of moral contentment for editorial writers. In Ku-

wait, the allies had a legal basis for intervention and a clear military and political goal. No clarity of means or ends lies behind action in Somalia and the "aid warriors" that will now sustain an anarchic equilibrium. The *Washington Post* has a brand new American ideology to cheer on the troops: "Countries that fail to care decently for their citizens", it asserts, "dilute their claim to sovereignty and forfeit invulnerability to outside political-military intervention."

Really? Is this to be Bill Clinton's America? If so, it goes far beyond the Cold War doctrines of Dulles, Kennedy, Nixon and Kissinger, that foreign intervention was justified only to invade to save a nation from communism. If the *Post* is right, three-quarters of the globe is now at risk of attack from America or its UN proxies.

Of course rich countries are moved by the horror of war and famine beyond their borders. They help best by offering shelter to refugees and by supporting civilian charities. It may rarely be feasible to insert charity on the ground by main force, without taking sides

and worsening the strife, but I doubt it. That is plainly not the case with the siege-breaking convoys of Bosnia and the "aid warriors" that will now sustain an anarchic equilibrium. The *War Party* is motivated not

by humanitarianism but by a desire to see a particular evil smashed. Its humanitarianism is proxy for more active worldwide engagement by the West after the ending of the Cold War. In principle such commitment, notably by the US, is no bad thing. It saved Kuwait and mitigates American isolationism.

But as the world saw in the 1970s and 1980s, engagement by outsiders so easily aggravates conflicts — then in Vietnam, in Lebanon, in Angola, in Sri Lanka; now in Bosnia, in Somalia, in Cambodia, perhaps again in Iraq, in Armenia, even in South Africa.

American liberalism is behaving as if it had found its first just war since 1939. There is no sense of proportion: every enemy is Hitler. Here is a new jihad, a global crusade against man's inhumanity to man, a holy war stripped of self-interest, stripped even of hope of victory. Like all jihadis, calm assess-

ment of costs and benefits is treated as contemptible. Send in the troops and damn the consequences. It is every politician's cop-out and every soldier's dread. Such crusaders measure their glory in body bags.

Perhaps there will be a wider war in the Balkans, in East Africa, in Cambodia. If so, I hope the outside world stays clear, clear with its money, its weapons and its moral confusion. We can relieve pain but we cannot rule the world. Last week America withdrew its last troops from the Philippines, a century after they first arrived. I wonder how soon they will return, driven back by the hysterics of network television.

Many think Kipling wrote "The White Man's Burden" to glorify the British empire. He did not. He wrote it to warn Americans of the perils of empire, when America was seizing Subic Bay from the Spanish in 1898. Its subtitle was "The United States and the Philippine Islands". Its message to the armchair imperialist was bleak:

*The ports ye shall not enter,
The roads ye shall not tread,
Go make them with your living,
And mark them with your dead.*

Rooting for a Windsor dig

IT MAY be an *annus horribilis* for the royal household but the fire which devastated Windsor Castle could make it an *annus mirabilis* for archaeologists already abuzz with excitement about what might be uncovered by the blaze. If they can get at the remains, that is.

As the Royal Berkshire Rescue Service issued its somewhat inconclusive report yesterday into the fire a fortnight ago, a team of archaeologists from the Central Archaeology Service was still waiting in the palace wings ready to excavate material which they believe will date from the twelfth century.

The archaeologists themselves say diplomatically that they have been unable to reach the damaged areas for safety reasons, but one insider said yesterday that the royal household was being less than helpful. "They are often difficult about access and, from what I have heard, little has changed," he said.

Brian Kerr, one of 30 archaeologists who will be involved in the initial excavation, said at Windsor yesterday: "We would certainly hope to excavate, going back at least as far as the reign of Henry II and, who knows, possibly even further. This would include parts of

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the King's Chamber, the King's Hall and other important 12th-century palace buildings.

Professor Martin Biddle, the eminent Oxford medieval archaeologist, says that the Prince of Wales, himself a student of archaeology, might get involved: "It is such an important matter that I feel sure he cannot but be interested." English Heritage, in charge of the programme, appears to have its hands tied by Buckingham Palace. Palace officials refused to comment. "We will not say anything until we know about the restoration programme," said one.

• The congregation at John Gummer's local church in Ealing should not be too alarmed when he does not turn up on Sunday morning. Gummer, who has resigned his seat on the General Synod, has not yet left the Church of England, despite his opposition to women priests. But the agriculture minister will be worshipping this Sunday in St Lucia, where he flew this weekend to "talk about bananas". Gummer's spokesman says: "I spoke to him on his carphone earlier and he told me that St Lucia's Anglican church

spokesman, denies that the businessman is feeling the pinch. "I'm sure they will be happy to lend their staff. They know the rules. No one is recession-proof but Mr de Savary is still here and still going strong."

Ill wind?

IF Norman Lamont is still searching for the economic miracle he should take a trip to Florida, where inhabitants are just beginning to discover the silver lining left by the clouds of hurricane Andrew. A University of Florida study shows that post-hurricane rebuilding will boost the economy until 1995. Next year employment is expected to grow by 3.8 per cent. Had Andrew not happened the growth rate would have been 2.8 per cent. Growth in real personal income, 0.3 per cent this year, is expected to be 4.9 per cent next year, thanks largely to insurance pay-outs — a prediction to make Lloyd's names choke on their champagne.

Pink'un

WHILE John Smith tried this week to modernise the Labour party by severing its union links, the party's co-ordinating committee was taking a step back in the past. Set up in the 1980s as an intellectual alternative to the hard left, the

Labour co-ordinating committee is bringing out a new magazine.

With the support of such luminaries as Bryan Gould, the magazine, called *Renewal*, will be distributed to all the party's opinion makers. And who prints it? Step forward Lawrence & Wishart, the south London printers, closely connected with the old Communist Party of Great Britain, since renamed the Democratic Left.

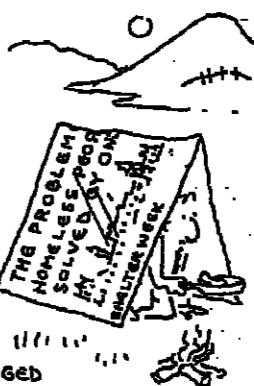
Bitter bit

DEDICATED admen are used to plugging themselves into the products they are selling. Those devising ads for soap powder wash their underpants in it, those flogging coffee drink it all day long. Nevertheless, it came as a shock to Rob Burleigh, a copywriter for the London advertising agency Euro RSCG, when he received an unexpected taste of

his latest product. Burleigh, who has just written a poster slogan publicising the housing charity Shelter, was evicted from his London flat last weekend.

"I had been given a month's notice by my landlady," he says, "but I could not find anywhere else and she flew off the handle. I got this phone call at work saying she had evicted me." It took him weeks to retrieve his belongings, deposit and advance rent.

Burleigh says that if he had not been able to move in with his girlfriend, he would have been on the streets — his family lives in Nottingham. "I've never been homeless before and I never want to be again. It brought home the importance of the Shelter campaign."





AGAINST AGGRESSION

The West needs a winter of statesmanship to curb a Balkan war

Anthony Koestler once warned on these pages that a "decade of demagogues" in different parts of the world might be matched by a "decade of dentists" in the leadership of the West. He was writing about the Eighties and he was wrong. Today, as Serbia struts and bows and burns, it seems that the great man may have been merely misled in his timing.

European leaders are preparing for next week's Edinburgh summit. The talk is of rebate and subsidiarity, enlargement and Maastricht: the subject might as well be molars. But, slowly, quietly, and at lower levels in the chancelleries of Europe, there is growing worry about greater matters: in five years' time, it is said, we may look back to winter, 1992, and ask why Western governments refused to use the weapons they commanded to save Europe from a widening war.

Any words of pre-emptive military action to avert war are still barely whispered. When the whisper is heard, it is muffled and stifled by arguments that "nothing can be done... the public would not put up with the casualties... and the Balkans always behave abominably, don't they?". On the other side of the Atlantic, policy is in flux. America acquiesced in the EC's early, rash insistence that this was Europe's problem. Now it awaits President Clinton, a man whose character is shaped both by hatred of the Vietnam war and love of John F. Kennedy. How will he judge the threat to peace from Serbian ambitions? No one knows.

Everyone in Western public office, anxious with reason to avoid intervening militarily in a notoriously complex region, has maintained so far that in this nasty little "local" or "civil" war, the correct policy is diplomacy coupled with a small peacekeeping effort and humanitarian assistance. This position, though appearing as one of prudence, is a gamble that neither addresses nor was designed to address a real and present danger of international conflict. Governments are only now beginning to consider just how combustible the Balkans could be, if the war in Bosnia is not stopped.

Serbian territorial ambitions are not confined to Croatia and Bosnia; they extend to areas only thinly inhabited by Serbs. Belgrade has claims on Macedonia to the south, over which two Balkan wars have been fought this century. Cyrus Vance, a consummately cautious diplomat, worries publicly that "a spark from Macedonia could ignite the whole region". Serbian nationalists are already talking about "a weekend in Skopje". Were Serbian forces to move south, Bulgaria, Albania and even Greece could join a war of partition, reviving ancient territorial claims.

Fighting in Macedonia could spark an explosion in Kosovo, which Serbia views as its historical heartland but where Albanians form an exploited and bitterly resentful 90 per cent Muslim majority. A Serb crackdown could bring in Albania; Turkey would be pressed to intervene in Islamic countries, which already see the Bosnian war in terms of a Christian onslaught against Muslims. Two Nato members, Greece and Turkey, could be on opposing sides in a wider war.

The principles that the West laid down when fighting first broke out in the former Yugoslavia are sound enough. But first in Croatia and now in Bosnia, the West has failed to enforce the idea that frontiers should be protected from forcible change. British, French and other troops have been drawn into the Balkans slowly and without a coherent strategy. Nearly 23,000 UN troops are policing enclaves in Croatia and ferrying food parcels across the war-zones of Bosnia-Herzegovina. But no Western government has accepted the case for sending troops to Bosnia to enforce the peace. None even countenances the use of force to prevent the armed obstruction of the relief effort.

Ronald Reagan said yesterday in the Oxford Union that "when the nations of the UN commit themselves to medical and food relief they should also commit the resources, and above all the will, to deliver the supplies regardless of roaming bandits who would thwart the international consensus". There is little sign that he will be heard.

For months it has been evident that the Serbs will stop fighting and cede territory only when their leaders are convinced that this is a war they cannot win without impoverishment, isolation and unacceptable casualties. At the moment they are convinced of the opposite case. Because the UN forces are not mandated or equipped to fight back, their presence may even reinforce the Serbs' conviction that the world has nothing to throw at them but words.

The Serbs may well be right. There is a non-interventionist solution which, however cynical, has all the appeal of simplicity. Western meddling it is said, just prolongs the agony. The Bosnian Muslims have lost the war, and suffering would be most speedily relieved if the world came to terms with reality and redrew the borders between the former Yugoslavia's republics, taking account of the aggressors' military gains.

Let no one think that such a policy is free of risk. There is dangerous precedent in inaction. Acceptance of Serbian gains would encourage demagogues and ethnic conflict across practically every frontier in Central and Eastern Europe. A *Realpolitik* attitude to Serbian success might keep American and European troops out of fighting in the Balkans.

ans for the time being. But it would not stop the war in Bosnia, or avert the risk of the war's spreading. The Bosnian Serbs hold over the lands they have conquered is both precarious and contested by Croats as well as Muslims; if the Bosnian Muslims were deserted by the West, Serbs and Croats would fight over the country's corpse. The risks of a wider conflict would be undiminished.

There is a second, more far-reaching objection to rewarding Serbian aggression. Almost 40 countries went to war with Iraq, under Western leadership, to defend the postwar structure of international law. Islamic countries see the West's readiness to counter to Serbian aggression as a test of good faith. Should it be proved openly to them that the war over Kuwait was no more than "a war about oil", the West will be weakened in attempts to win collective action in future under the United Nations emblem.

A much-discussed alternative to direct Western intervention would be to send UN troops to Macedonia and Kosovo, while arming and training Bosnia's defenders much as the West armed the Afghan *mujahideen*. Many Bosnians ask for nothing more. But it would take years to forge untrained volunteers into a fighting force.

The West must test the Serbs' will and capacity to continue the fight. Meaningless bluff will not work. What is needed is the threat of a timetable, leading to military enforcement of the peace under either Chapter VII or Chapter VIII of the UN Charter. Both out of principle and to win Russian assent to collective action against fellow-Slavs, the UN must be even-handed.

Croatia should be put under notice of UN sanctions unless it withdraws all troops from Herzegovina and ceases to support Bosnian Croat operations there.

The first step must be to enforce the UN ban on flights over Bosnia, routinely violated by the Serbs shooting down aircraft and destroying any bases from which they take off. Britain, France and Canada fear that their troops would come under Serb fire: they are coming under fire now. The answer is to empower them to return fire in good earnest, rather than merely in self-defence.

The Bosnian Serbs are heavily reliant on Belgrade for money, food and munitions. Serbia should be warned that unless these deliveries cease, air power will also be used to bombard depots and strategic routes into Bosnia. In the light of the Deputy Speaker's remark that members should exercise greater ingenuity in trying to draft a referendum amendment, perhaps the greatest danger is that he will accept only an "opinion-expressing motion" which the government will be free to accept or reject. This will not do; it is for the House finally to decide the issue, not the government.

The Speaker and all her deputies must accept their responsibility to see that members are able to do all natural things arising on draft legislation placed before them. If they do not, one will have to conclude that the Chair is more concerned to please the government than to uphold the rights of the House, as it has sworn to do.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE CUNNINGHAM
(Labour MP for Islington South, 1970-83),
28 Manor Gardens, Hampstead, Middlesex.

December 2.

From Mr Martin Howe

Sir, On November 3, just before the Maastricht "paving" debate you reported the prime minister as reassuring Conservative MPs that the preamble to the Maastricht treaty is just "Euro-waffle" which has "no legal force whatever".

This is puzzling. Probably the single most fundamental constitutional case to have come before the European Court of Justice was *Van Gend en Loos* [1963] ECR 1. This established the principle that Community law is directly applicable and "constitutes a new legal order, the subjects of which comprise not only Member States but also their nationals". The court's reasoning was explicitly based on "the preamble to the [Rome] Treaty which refers not only to governments but to peoples".

Van Gend en Loos is one of the best known decisions of the European court and is taught to students on elementary courses about European Community law. It is disturbing that the advice apparently given to the prime minister should contain so basic a misconception, since it calls into question the quality of the advice he is receiving on other aspects of this treaty.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN HOWE,
Francis Taylor Building,
Temple, EC4.

December 1.

Paying the piper

From the Secretary-General of the Arts Council of Great Britain

Sir, Sir Peter Maxwell Davies refers (letter, December 3) to a report in *The Times* in which I was quoted as saying that giving money to composers was "not directly related" to the Arts Council's policy of support for artists.

The quotation is self-evident and arrant nonsense and must have arisen from a misinterpretation of what was said. In fact support for composers is a perfect example of the policy to which I referred — the Arts Council exists to serve the arts.

Yours sincerely,
ANTHONY EVERITT,
Secretary-General,
The Arts Council of Great Britain,
14 Great Peter Street, SW1.

December 3.

Fit and proper

From Dr P. Glaister

Sir, The decision by the Danish company Lega to build a theme park on the site of the former Windsor safari park (report, December 3) should come as welcome news for some of those hit by the recession in this area, particularly small firms of builders, or should I say firms of small builders?

Yours faithfully,
P. GLAISTER,
3 Instow Road,
Earley, Reading, Berkshire.

December 3.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Maastricht and referendums

From Mr George Cunningham

Sir, If the Deputy Speaker, despite his indication that he is still open to persuasion on the matter (report, December 2), in the end refuses to allow members of Parliament to vote on an effective amendment requesting a referendum before the Maastricht treaty is built into British law, it will be a significant reflection on the role of the Chair as defender of the rights of the House as a whole.

The bills on Scottish and Welsh devolution in the 1970s did not initially include provision for referendums; amendments requiring them were added during consideration in the House. It cannot therefore be argued that a referendum clause is "outside the scope of the bill", the usual ground for ruling an amendment out of order.

As to the argument that it is improper for private members, as against the government, to initiate proposals having expenditure implications, the fact is that masses of amendments with some such implications are accepted every session and that they normally fall foul of the rule only if they directly and specifically authorise money to be spent. Even the House of Lords, theoretically barred from considering money matters, has found ways of advancing proposals which raise expenditure.

In the light of the Deputy Speaker's remark that members should exercise greater ingenuity in trying to draft a referendum amendment, perhaps the greatest danger is that he will accept only an "opinion-expressing motion" which the government will be free to accept or reject. This will not do; it is for the House finally to decide the issue, not the government.

The Speaker and all her deputies must accept their responsibility to see that members are able to do all natural things arising on draft legislation placed before them. If they do not, one will have to conclude that the Chair is more concerned to please the government than to uphold the rights of the House, as it has sworn to do.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE CUNNINGHAM
(Labour MP for Islington South, 1970-83),
28 Manor Gardens, Hampstead, Middlesex.

December 2.

From Mr Roger Fry

Sir, Article 8 of schedule 2 of the Synodical Government Measure, 1969 enables the General Synod of the Church of England to pass measures and canons that change the ordinal.

Has Mr John Gummer, who joined the synod in 1979, only now discovered he disagrees with the constitution?

Yours faithfully,
ROGER FRY
(Member, House of Laity),
11 Evelyn Road, Faringdon, Portsmouth, Hampshire.

December 2.

From Sir Leslie Fielding

Sir, While sympathising with John Gummer, I have resigned after two years from the General Synod for different reasons.

Like many middle-of-the-road Anglicans, I am agnostic about women priests. But any such really major move ought to be taken only by an equally major consensus within the Church of England. The synod has

Musical variety

From Mr Simon Berry

Sir, Susan Elkin ("Oh for a song to sing O!", November 23) rightly points out that there is much to be gained from school performances of Gilbert and Sullivan. My school has mounted two fully staged performances recently — *Trial by Jury* and *The Mikado*. However, she is quite wrong to criticise schools for investigating other genres. Any stage performance is an ideal method of educating across the traditional boundaries of the curricular subjects, irrespective of its theme.

Ms Elkin obviously relishes in the parody and pastiche in Sullivan's scores. Surely it is easier for students to appreciate these nuances after performances of works such as *Magic Flute* or *Dido and Aeneas*?

Many British operas, for instance, are planned around the talents of school musicians.

I would always shy away from asking any but the very best of school violinists to tackle a G&S part. When it comes to *Bugsy Malone* and *Grease* we should never forget the exacting demands for dancers that would vie in difficulty with any bunch of G&S sailors merrily hurling the capstan.

No musical style is to be damned, none should take precedence. G&S should take an equal place with all styles. Perhaps, then, one Savoy operetta every five years?

Sincerely,
SIMON BERRY
(Director of Music,
Lady Margaret School,
Parsor's Green, SW6).

November 25.

From Miss Hazel R. Morgan

Sir, Susan Elkin believes that "the educational gain" of schools performing Gilbert and Sullivan operettas "would be considerable". So might the vocal loss.

These works were written for mature singers. They require a reliable vocal technique, strong projection (spoken and sung) of the "rich vocabulary", and plenty of stamina. Even as a trained singer I have always found G&S hard on the voice: the closing chorus of *The Mikado* feels as demanding as Beethoven's Choral Symphony.

School-age voices, female as well as male, are at a very sensitive stage of development and should not be over-stressed, no matter how mature they may sound. Indeed, it is the precocious, enthusiastic youngsters who are at greatest risk of permanent damage.

Even if all the notes are there, unless the child has learned the correct method of breathing it is unlikely that he or she will be able to sustain a role written for an adult.

Yours sincerely,
HAZEL R. MORGAN,

80 Rickstones Road, Witham, Essex.

November 27.

Services and shows

From Dr Denis Cashman

Sir, Graham Young (letter, December 2) expresses disquiet that actors and singers take part in memorial services in church.

Surely they are using God-given talents, in God's house, in the good service of others — perhaps friends or relatives. I find that wholly appropriate.

Yours faithfully,

DENIS CASHMAN,

4 Derwent Road, Cullercoats, Tyne and Wear.

December 2.

Missing millions

From Mr Peter J. Hyde

Sir, If, after the public spending auditor discovered irregular payments totalling £1,218,000 for an efficiency incentive scheme (report, December 3), the Treasury decides to write off the money as a loss and the defence ministry neither takes disciplinary action nor tries to recover any of the money, why should time and money be wasted in having an audit at all?

Perhaps, to minimise the auditors' disillusionment and frustration, they might be allowed to share in the recreational and social facilities involved in the missing £1.2 million and not spend their time auditing.

Yours faithfully,

PETER J. HYDE,

15 Elm Green Close, Worcester.

December 3.

A green shoot?

From Mr Anthony Herschel Hill

Sir, At long last I have proof of the recession is an end and recovery is at hand. The bank statement for my deposit account shows balance 0.00;

interest, 0.02; less tax, 0.01; balance, 0.00.

Yours sincerely,

ANTHONY HERSCHEL HILL,

70 Prebend Street, N1.

complementary? Does equality of status require identity of role?

The *Dean of Queens* may disagree with the former Bishop of London on the answers to these questions, but they are clearly issues that are both theological and serious. Just how serious can be gauged from the fact that belief in the virgin birth or the physical resurrection are not prerequisites for episcopal appointment, but belief in the ordination of women may well now be required.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL LLOYD,
Chaplain,
Christ's College, Cambridge.

From Mr Colin W. V. McCleery

Sir, The suggestion from Simon Hughes, MP (report, December 2, early editions), that Mr Gummer "should accept the democratic view of the Church" epitomises all that is wrong with the Church of England. If Anglican doctrine and orders are based on Scripture they cannot also be determined by "democratic" vote.

Yours sincerely (faithfully?),
C. W. V. McCLEERY,
Orchard House,
Rodborough Common,<

OBITUARIES

ARTHUR STEPHENSON

Arthur Stephenson, prolific trainer of winning steeplechase and huntiers in the north of England, died in Bishop Auckland on December 3, aged 72. He was born on April 7, 1920.

In a distinguished career spanning 33 years, Arthur Stephenson's most important individual success was at Cheltenham in 1987 when The Thinker captured the Gold Cup. It was also a victory charged with high drama.

Before the scheduled start of the climax to the three-day jumping festival snow began to fall heavily. It looked odds-on that racing would be called off. But the stewards decided to postpone the start in the hope that conditions would improve for a highly competitive field which included the 1985 winner, Forgive 'N Forget, the previous season's Grand National victor, West Tip, and that favourite of the crowds, Wayward Lad, successful three times in the King George VI Chase.

Their optimism was miraculously justified as late as 4.50pm, but as the runners made their way to the start not only was lighting up time rapidly approaching, there was also further snow in the air. Finally, to the relief of the crowd, the runners were despatched and the resulting Gold Cup can seldom have more resembled a production of ghosts.

In the muck on the far side, however, under the shadow of Cleeve Hill, by then giving a passable imitation of the Matterhorn, one set of colours drew nearer and nearer the front. It was the orange and green of The Thinker, a true beacon in the gloom. But although in the final stages, the race was not over yet. First a blunder and then a bump all but paid to what proved a thrilling triumph by a length and a half for the horse schooled by the trainer from Bishop Auckland.



William Arthur Stephenson came of age, though he held a permit to train horse racing stock and was a cousin of the successful Royston trainer, the late "Willie" Stephenson. Like his relative, he had a natural understanding of and skill with horses. He first rode a point to point winner at the age of 14 and two years later achieved his first riding success under Rules. Altogether he rode more than a hundred winners, combining the activity with farming the family lands in Co. Durham.

Although he held a permit to train he did not take out a full licence until relatively late in life, when he was 39.

Stephenson quickly built up a substantial string of winners, among them Kimpton Willie, winner of the 1961 Scottish Grand National (a race he won again at Killone Abbey exactly 30 years later) and Rainbow Belle, who captured the Welsh Grand National in 1964.

Despite these victories, the Grand

National itself consistently eluded him, although he had a succession of placed horses including O'Malley Point, Hawa's Song, and The Thinker himself (all third). He came nearest with Durham Edition, twice runner-up, and beaten only three quarters of a length after a great tussle with Mr Frisk in 1990.

Other Aintree events, nevertheless, Stephenson won in profusion, including the Liverpool Fox Hunter's Chase four times (twice each with Credit Call and Sea Knight); the Topman Trophy with Rington Prince, and, when this race was renamed the John Hughes Memorial Chase with Villierstown. At Cheltenham, meanwhile, he had a Mackeson Gold Cup winner in Pawnbroker, and sent out Credit Call to win the Foxhunter's Chase there as well. Stephenson also believed in quantity, he saddled that gallant old performer Supermaster to win on no fewer than 34 occasions.

Victory in numbers was perhaps Stephenson's very own hallmark. In 1969-70 he became the first National Hunt trainer to achieve 100 winners in a season: a feat he performed many times over, and most recently in 1991-92 with a total of 101.

Although best known for his prolific success with jumpers, Stephenson also had important winners on the Flat, first with Forlorn River in the Nunthorpe Stakes, the July Cup and Challenge Stakes in 1967, then with Forlorn River's offspring Rapid River in the Gimcrack and other important two-year-old races five seasons later.

As a personality, the ample-framed Stephenson cultivated a reticence with the Press which made him not the easiest trainer to approach for information. But there is no doubt that he had a bark rather than a bite, and was an affable enough man to those whom he knew he could trust. He leaves a widow, Nancy, a son and two daughters.

NUREDDIN ATASSI

Nureddin Atassi, president of Syria, 1966-70, died in Paris on December 3 aged 63. He was born in Homs in 1929.



NUREDDIN Atassi came to power in Syria as a result of a bloody coup — the 20th in less than 20 years — in 1966 and four years later was overthrown and imprisoned for 22 years by his former ally, Lieutenant General Hafiz al-Assad, who remains in power in Damascus. President Assad held Atassi responsible for Syria's humiliating defeat in the Six-Day War against Israel in 1967, when Syria lost control of the Golan Heights.

During his political career Atassi had established himself within the pan-Arab Baathist party as a doctrinaire Marxist with extremist tendencies.

With the party divided between two factions, Atassi was a leader of the "progressive" element, strongly supported by Moscow, which believed that the creation of a powerful one-party state took precedence over the requirements of Arab unity and the need for a militant stance against Israel. The opposing "nationalist" faction, led by General Assad, favoured a more pragmatic approach to internal affairs, improved relations with Syria's Arab neighbours and full participation in the campaign against Israel.

Atassi took a degree in medicine at the University of Damascus. He then established a practice there and entered politics, quickly becoming a leading member of the Baath (Resurrection) party. After the party achieved power in a 1963 coup d'état, he was appointed minister of the interior. He retained this portfolio in spite of a cabinet reshuffle until May the following year. Then, under a new constitution which was pro-

mulgated, he became a member of the presidential council and, in September 1965, was appointed its vice-chairman. However, in February 1966 there was another military coup, in which 41 people were officially listed as killed and 69 injured, and the regime of Brigadier Amin Hafiz was overthrown. Atassi emerged as head of state and Gen Assad as minister of defence. Atassi was, initially at least, regarded as little more than a front-man for the regime. His achievement in remaining in office for the next four years defied most predictions and was the result, primarily, of the failure of his numerous opponents, who included Hafiz al-Assad, to join forces.

As head of state, Atassi, relied heavily on support from Moscow while espousing the Baathist regime's extremist foreign policy.

Eight months after he took office in 1966, tension along Syria's border with Israel increased and was to become one of the elements that led to the war beginning on June 5, 1967. In the fighting, in spite of some stubborn resistance, the Syrian forces were outflanked and overrun and the Israelis advanced rapidly to the town of Quneitra, 40 miles

from Damascus. On June 10 Syria and Israel formally accepted the United Nations proposal for a cease-fire but Atassi's regime rejected all idea of a compromise with Israel and, alone among the Arab states, maintained its commitment to a unified Palestine. Atassi attacked the more conservative Arab leaders, accusing them of being in league with foreign circles and showed no compunction in reopening earlier inter-Arab feuds, keeping Syria at loggerheads with Iraq and Jordan and estranged from Egypt.

Meanwhile the feud within the Baath Party in Syria continued. By 1968, the "nationalist" faction was strong enough to gain several more cabinet seats. In 1969 Gen Assad attempted to take over the government but was foiled by Soviet threats that if he did so all military and economic supplies would end. A year later, however, the factional dispute reached its climax when King Husain of Jordan acted against the Palestinian guerrillas in his country who were threatening his authority. Over the objections of General Assad, Atassi lent the Syrian Army's support to the Palestinian guerrillas, sending an armoured column to their aid. General Assad refused to provide the column with air cover and they suffered a humiliating defeat. As a consequence, in November, while Atassi was in hospital, General Assad seized power. Atassi was placed under house arrest and later transferred to the al-Mazeh military prison in Damascus where he was held, without being charged or put on trial, until April this year. After suffering a heart attack he was moved to Tishrin Military Hospital and, when his condition worsened, the Damascus government allowed him to be moved, in November, to Paris.

JOHN PAGE-PHILLIPS



John Page-Phillips, president of the Monumental Brass Society, a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London and a well known antique dealer, died at his home at St Peter's Hall, Suffolk, on November 14 aged 62. He was born on June 17, 1930.

JOHN Page-Phillips's great interest lay in the study of church monuments, most especially monumental brasses. He was a notable writer on the subject, not only publishing articles but a widely selling general study *Monumental Brass*, 1969, and a two-volume treatise *Palimpsests — The Backs of Monumental Brass*, 1980, which is a standard work of reference on re-used brasses, and the wealth of new material that

has been discovered in examining the reverses of memorial brass plates. His systematic analysis has enabled the linkage of many re-used pieces, now widely dispersed, a number of which have been traced to London and other churches in England and, most interestingly, to others in the Low Countries. Some of his less known work, such as his unpublished thesis *A Sixteenth Century Workshop*, 1958, proved of great value to others studying the development of brasses and style and, as a consequence, the revision of many long accepted dates.

His influence as a writer was nevertheless exceeded by his impact as a generator of interest and research. His home in London became a regular meeting place for antiquaries and the notable advances in knowledge of the

1970s and 1980s owe much to his interest, curiosity and energy.

Page-Phillips was educated at Eton and Magdalen College, Cambridge. Following a brief period working for ICI

he devoted his life to antique dealing and the study of church monuments. He established the business of Phillips and Page in Kensington Church Street, London, and made wide-ranging contacts in the antique trade. He had a particular interest in unusual objects from unusual sources, specialising, for instance, in Ethiopian and Burmese antiquities.

As president of the Monumental Brass Society he pioneered many projects concentrating on the centenary of the society in 1987. Particularly notable were the "Witness in Brass Exhibition" at the Victoria and Albert Museum, the consolidated reproduction of the society's Portfolio plates and his role in the production of the book *The Earliest English Brass*.

In collaboration with Michael Ward, Page-Phillips was an innovator in the manufacture of resin replicas of brasses and, for a period, ran a brass rubbing centre. He set very high standards of quality, and a major reproduction, that of Sir Hugh Hastings (died 1347), at Elsing, Norfolk, with restoration of many parts now lost, was included in the Age of Chivalry exhibition at the Royal Academy.

His last project, a conference in Bruges earlier this year, proved a notable example of Anglo/Flemish collaboration.

Page-Phillips will be missed for his tremendous energy, his interest in the initiatives of others, and his concern that the study of memorials should take its proper place in the context of medieval art as a whole. He leaves a widow, Barbara, and six children.

PROFESSOR NORMAN DEES

Professor Norman Dees, director of extra-mural studies at the University of Glasgow, 1961-81, died on November 11 aged 76. He was born on April 7, 1916.

IT WAS peculiarly appropriate that Norman Dees should die on Remembrance Day. His service in the Durham Light Infantry and his capture in the North Africa Campaign in the second world war were powerful influences in his thinking about international politics and social development, and he was set on his

career by the experience of organising courses of study for fellow prisoners of war.

A graduate of Manchester University, Norman Dees worked with the Manchester Extra-Mural Department as warden of Holly Royde residential adult centre for a year. In 1947 he joined King's College, Durham (later part of Newcastle University), as resident tutor for Cumberland and Westmoreland, based in Penrith.

Later he became deputy director of extra-mural studies at Newcastle, and for his last twenty years of working life

was director of extra-mural studies at Glasgow.

Dees prided himself on teaching without a note. He pioneered a number of adult education programmes such as an access programme for mature students in 1979 (the first in Scotland), trade union studies and training for the juvenile justice system.

He became interested in the teaching of Adult Education as an academic discipline and published two books in the field.

Norman Dees is survived by his second wife, Phyllis, and two daughters.

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NEWS

Insurers battle over bombs cover

■ In the face of the most sustained IRA campaign since the seventies, British insurers were trying last night to mould together a package to press the government into underwriting the costs of mainland bombings.

The decision of large foreign reinsurers to cease offering cover from next year for claims arising from terrorism in the United Kingdom has panicked the industry. Downing Street officials say the government wants a commercial solution and is determined to resist the pressure. Pages 1,2

Prince backs French farmers

■ The Prince of Wales ignoring both government and his compatriots by offering philosophical support to French farmers in Paris as he accepted a French honour. Pages 1,10

Summit "hit-list"

The British presidency of the European Community will present the Edinburgh summit with a list of EC laws it says should be scrapped. It is the clearest attack yet on the Brussels' powers and throws light on the obscure subject of "subsidiarity". Page 10

Help for patients

Patients will be entitled to prompt help with changing their doctor and a rapid response to complaints under new standards for general practitioner services announced yesterday. Page 2

Castle fire report

The fire that ravaged Windsor Castle two weeks ago was probably caused by a spotlight accidentally overheating a curtain in the private chapel. The official report concludes that no individual was to blame. Page 3

Bomb injures 19

Nineteen white people were hurt when a bomb exploded at a crowded fast-food cafe in

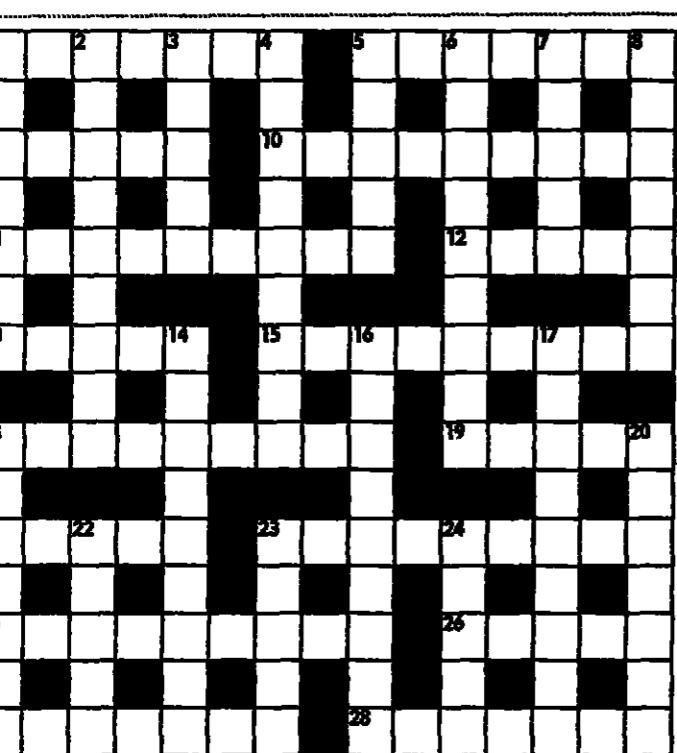
Helping phobics unbutton their fears

■ There is no fear so compelling as that of the unexplained, says Phobia Awareness week's organiser. One woman is so terrified of buttons she has had them replaced by Velcro on her clothes. A retired post office worker has a fear of bagpipes. "If I hear 'Mull of Kintyre', I go to pieces," she said. Page 6

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,094

■ PARKER. A prize of a superb Parker Duofold International Fountain Pen, with an 18 carat gold nib and fully guaranteed for the lifetime of the original owner will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address.



ACROSS
 1 Vessel supplied with scurvy prophylactic, that's great? (7).
 5 Slaver bringing back blackbird to the French? (7).
 9 Soldiers cook in this part of America (5).
 10 Appropriate children argue the toss (4,5).
 11 A hundred and fifty English scholars feast in February (9).
 12 Ancient letter, a survival from ogam, maybe (5).
 13 Unsteady, or firm and unyielding (5).
 15 The racing game? (9).
 18 One team entered in the race finally scratched, bewildered (9).
 19 Discard most of bark (5).
 21 Rope, see, has caught the animal (5).
 23 Insect bearing, 'tis said, supreme happiness (9).
 25 Water-clock in dry places going wrong (9).
 26 Old man mosty responsible for faux pas (5).
 27 Fruit with an outer covering might be called bananas (7).
 28 In the end, former member boards plane, perhaps (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,088

UNTRIED CHARGER
 N H M R A L L I E
 AGORA AQUILEGIA
 R R G M L A O L
 MUNGOPARK TUTTI
 E B T C O S
 DJINN INDENTURE
 L E CIGGS
 COLLAPSES ETHOS
 O R C E K
 SPLIT SCHOLARLY
 T A H K A I E E
 AMPLIFIER METAL
 R S N E G I T U
 DREDGER EXTREME

PERSIFLAGE SWAT
 G A M O A E R
 PARAPHRASE RAGE
 E E R D O I T S
 HORSEMANSHIP
 I S V E S E A
 MENDICANT TERMS
 P A D R E A M B
 OLIVE CIRCULATE
 S L N H M N R
 INSECTICIDES
 T F E V D N S B
 IVAN SINISTERLY
 O O G S O A A
 N EED STIMULATED

Solution to Puzzle No 19,093



Pakistani soldiers of the UN humanitarian group in Somalia awaiting the arrival of American troops at Mogadishu airport. Pages 1, 9

Amstrad: Alan Sugar

President Boris Yeltsin battled to save his reforms from the ravages of the conservative Congress of People's deputies after the assembly strongly condemned his government's record and demanded fundamental policy changes. Page 11

Coalition delay

A new Irish government may not be formed until after Christmas, said Bertie Ahern, who continues as finance minister pending agreement on a coalition after last week's election. Page 6

Cricket: England

England has put forward a £5 million bid for the 1995 World Cup, but it may not be accepted by the International Cricket Council. Page 32

Football: Liverpool

Liverpool's hopes of being reinstated in the European Cup Winners' Cup were dashed when Fifa ruled that Mikhail Musatov's registration with Spartak Moscow was unacceptable. Page 31

Noh holds Bard: Yukio Nishigawa

Yukio Nishigawa's production of *The Tempest*, now at the Barbican, is played in Japanese and uses elements of Noh theatre in its staging. But Benedict Nightingale praises it as "closer to the heart of Shakespeare's most forgivable play" than many an English theatre company could manage. Weekend, Page 14

Gwyn lives: Cynthia Rose

visits Athens, to discover that the King is alive and well in the work of art he inspired, from a roadshow to carrier bags. Review, Page 26

Hot Ice: The American rapper, Ice Cube

has a new album out. Anti-women, anti-gays, foul-mouthed: strange ingredients for success, yet *The Predator* has shot straight to the top of the American pop chart. Reviews of other new record releases include a big compilation of Louis Armstrong in his All Stars prime, and discs of romantic orchestral music. Weekend, Page 14

Weathercall: 1000

Weathercall is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

AA Roadwatch

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National motorways 728
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 M6/M62/M63/M6 732
 M6/M62/M63/M6 733
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SIMON JENKINS

The British government is being sucked into three distant conflicts at the behest of American (and some British) public opinion. It must resist. Page 20

ANNE McELVOY

Set-piece power struggles are built into the fabric of Russian history... Unlike the revolutionaries of 1917 however, Mr Yeltsin does not have the option of ruthlessly violent methods followed by administrative repression to ensure that his vision of Russia holds sway. Such is the price of democracy. Page 20

MATTHEW PARRIS

Hal So it has come to this? My fury was aggravated by the knowledge that I have no mortgage with the Bristol & West and am therefore denied the pleasure of marching down to the nearest branch to withdraw it and take my custom elsewhere. Page 20

Henry James

Caroline Moore admires an excellent biography of the man who wrote *Portrait of a Lady*, *The Aspern Papers* and *The Bostonians*. Pages 52-53

Dean Martin

Stripping away the Hollywood glitz, Nick Tosches's *Dino: Living High in the Dirty Business of Dreams* shows how Martin has survived bankruptcy, addiction, only to withdraw into a twilight seclusion. Page 54

AGAINST AGGRESSION

Slowly, quietly, and at lower levels in the chancelleries of Europe, there is growing worry ... in five years' time, it is said, we may look back to the winter of 1992 and ask why Western governments refused to use the weapons they command to save Europe from a widening war ... The need for a tougher Western approach is duly spelled out in Balkan blood. Page 21

John Gummer

Caroline Moore admires an excellent biography of the man who wrote *Portrait of a Lady*, *The Aspern Papers* and *The Bostonians*. Pages 52-53

American troops

American troops are rightly being sent to strife-torn Somalia to insure that food reaches millions of starving people. But instead of doing it right, President Bush seems bent on doing it quickly. The Washington Post

Information supplied by Met Office

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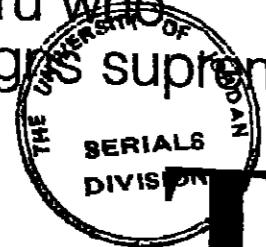
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BUSINESS 17-26

Profile: marketing guru who reigns supreme

**SPORT 27-32**

Eric Cantona adds Gallic spice to United's title bid

RACING 28

Aga Khan loses in the Court of Appeal

WEEKEND SPORTING FIXTURES
Page 27

THE TIMES 2

SATURDAY DECEMBER 5 1992

STEPHEN MARKSON

**WEEKEND MONEY****FRAUD WATCH**

Banks are bracing themselves for an increase in card fraud but are prepared to fight hard this year to keep losses down

Page 21

LOAN WATCH

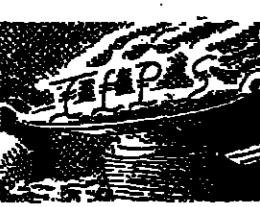
Banks should limit guarantees for loans made by parents, spouses or business partners

Page 23

CASE WATCH

Incompetent drafting allowed the Revenue to keep pursuing its case against the Malvern masters

Letters, page 24

TIP WATCH

The Inland Revenue has ways of controlling the black economy by estimating likely income from tips and other perks

Page 22

THE POUND

US dollar
1.5600 (-0.0040)
German mark
2.4846 (+0.0135)
Exchange index
80.7 (+0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
2082.4 (-9.3)
FT-SE 100
2759.4 (-11.6)
New York Dow Jones
3284.90 (+8.37)*
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
17295.69 (+35.61)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 7%
3-month Interbank: 7%
3-month eligible bills: 6%
US: Prime Rate: 6%
Federal Funds: 2%
3-month Treasury Bills: 3.20-3.25%
10-year bonds: 10.15-10.15%

CURRENCIES

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DM2.4882 \$1.0150*
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ECU \$0.790671 SDR: \$0.891471
ECU1.267476 E. SDR1.121741
London Foreign market close

FOREX

London: Fibon
AM \$335.00 PM \$335.50
Close \$335.50-338.50
E215.10-215.80
New York
Close \$335.25-335.75*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Dec) \$16.40/bbl (\$18.25)

RENTAL PRICES

RPI: 139.9 October (1967=100)

* Denotes midday trading price

Sugar urges investors to cast votes

By COLIN CAMPBELL

ALAN Sugar, founder of Amstrad, last night said that his plan to take the computer group private was not a foregone conclusion.

Realisation of his ambition to buyout, at 30p a share, the 65 per cent of Amstrad he does not own depends on the number of shareholders (in person or by proxy) voting at a critical shareholders' meeting on Thursday.

Every person and every share counts. Mr Sugar needs a simple majority of non-Sugar shareholders and 75 per cent of non-Sugar votes to win the day. "If shareholders do not vote... then they will get no doosh," Mr Sugar said.

Amstrad's disclosure of

■ Alan Sugar's controversial plan to take Amstrad private is on a knife-edge. As the chairman says "If shareholders do not vote... then they will get no doosh"

proxy numbers lodged with its registrars by the close of business on Thursday show that the number of shareholders wanting Mr Sugar's 30p offer, and the number of shares they represent, are short of the statutory requirements. Amstrad has 31,469 shareholders on its share register, but by Thursday only 9,443 had voted.

Mr Sugar said: "There are 22,000 shareholders out there who have not voted, and who have assumed, wrongly, that

their vote does not matter. They might well be assuming, also wrongly, that they do not have to do anything, and that their cheque will come in the post. They need to be shocked, else they will wake up on Friday morning and the reality will hit them that no cheque is coming."

Mr Sugar is not permitted under the scheme of arrangement through which he plans to take Amstrad private to vote his shares on his own proposal. Amstrad has an issued capital of £81 million shares, of which Mr Sugar's holding is 205 million. It is the majority of non-Sugar shareholders and non-Sugar shareholdings that will determine the outcome at Thursday's meeting.

The proxy count shows that by Thursday night, 3,932 shareholders had voted for the 30p offer, and 5,511 against.

The number of shares represented was 34.1 million for,

and 32.8 million against. On those totals, Mr Sugar's plan would be thrown out.

Gideon Fiege, of the Amstrad Shareholders Club opposed to Mr Sugar's plan yesterday lodged 270 proxies representing more than 1 million shares with Amstrad.

Mr Sugar reaffirmed that if the vote went against him on Thursday he "would not do anything spiteful or disruptive". He said: "Up till now, I have worked for the best

for the pound yesterday was the mark's vulnerability as evidence of recession in Germany. Yesterday, the economics ministry announced another fall in west German industrial orders the 11th consecutive monthly decline.

The mark's troubles took some pressure off the ERM. The franc recovered a little, helped by a joint statement after this week's Franco-German summit that the ERM was "decisive for stability and prosperity". The franc closed at 3,3970 to the mark, having been above 3,4100 earlier in the week.

Other British economic statistics published yesterday offered slim grounds for optimism. There was a 2 per cent rise in the number of houses built in October compared with September but, taking the last three months together, the number of housing starts are still down 94 per cent on last year.

The government's cyclical indicators for October were a mixed bag for those looking for clear signs of recovery. Although the longer leading index, which points to activity 11 months ahead, rose 1.3 per cent, the shorter leading index

suggesting what might happen in four months' time, fell. □ US unemployment fell to 7.2 per cent in November from 7.4 per cent in October, providing more evidence a genuine recovery may now be under way. Non-farm payroll jobs rose 105,000 last month compared with a revised increase of 34,000 in October.

Such straws in the wind triggered the return of investors who had bailed out of the pound after its exit from the ERM in September. Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, told *The Wall Street Journal* that the pound had fallen far enough and any further declines would compromise Britain's fight to control inflation.

Of even more significance

Jobs gloom deepens, page 18

Jaguar proves it has not lost its teeth

By JON ASHWORTH

THE end of the recession pulls up in our living rooms next week in the shape of six fuel-injected cylinders of polished, purring, chrome-and-steel British workmanship at its best. Jaguar, the luxury car maker which is now American-owned, is cashing in on a surge in sales across the Atlantic with a bumper Christmas television advertising campaign.

In America, where the Jaguar emblem inspires images of Harrods, Barbour jackets and tea at the Ritz, the sleek saloons have suddenly become affordable as well as fashionable.

Thanks to the weaker pound, would-be country gents can now pick up a top-of-the-range Jaguar XJ6 sedan for \$57,750. In British showrooms, a similar model sells for about £40,000. Such is the demand for new

models that Jaguar is keeping employees at its plants at Browns Lane, Coventry, and Castle Bromwich, West Midlands, working five instead of four days a week during December, enough to produce an extra 300 cars.

As its sister company, Ford UK, puts thousands of staff on short-time working Jaguar is going to the other extreme. If a luxury car maker can afford to do that in these bleak times, can the end of the

recession be far away? Jaguar's former employees might see it a little differently. More than 5,200 jobs have been cut since Ford bought the company for £1.6 billion in 1989. The American workforce was cut by 10 per cent last month and a further 200 UK jobs are to go by the spring.

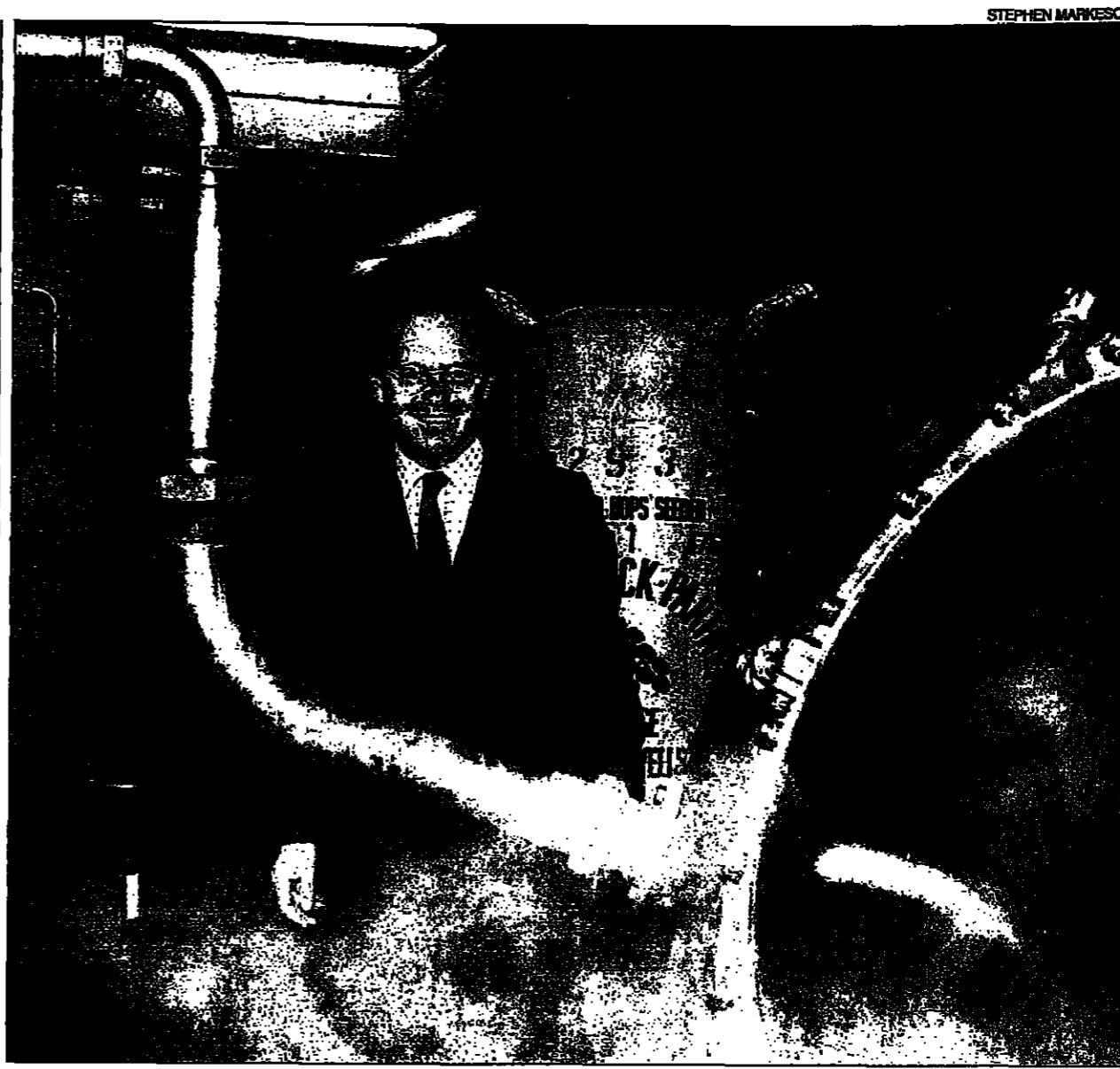
Those who respond quickly enough will get to ride alongside a Jaguar racing team in the new flagship XJ220, the world's fastest production car.

**SPORT 27-32**

Eric Cantona adds Gallic spice to United's title bid

**RACING 28**

Aga Khan loses in the Court of Appeal



Future looks flat: David Thompson of Wolverhampton & Dudley forecasts falling beer consumption

Brewer lifts dividend on £35m profit

By MARTIN WALLER

DAVID THOMPSON, managing director of Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries and a seasoned observer of the brewing scene, has served up a gloomy forecast of falling beer consumption for the next three years. Any upturn there is seen as shared by imports.

Pre-tax profits rose from £33 million to £35.2 million in the year to end-September. A better-than-expected 7.1p final dividend, bringing the total to 11.4p from 10.3p, lifted the shares 9p to 53.5p.

The company is forecasting another 3 per cent off national beer volumes next year, and Mr Thompson does not expect any upturn until 1996 when rising personal incomes should boost the market. Even then, "the UK market is going to lose quite a lot as a result of imports from France".

The outlook for Wolverhampton in 1993, therefore, was bleak, with fewer opportunities to raise margins through cost-cutting or higher prices. Demand had fallen steadily since the recession started in some of its pubs as customers felt the squeeze on spending.

Thursday's meeting will be at The Insurance Hall, Aldermanbury, London, whose Great Hall holds 320. If all 31,469 Amstrad shareholders turn up, alternative arrangements will have to be made, Amstrad said.



Sugar: shock treatment

interests of the company, and I made the 30p offer in what I believe to be the best interests of all shareholders. If the vote goes against me, I will have to think about putting myself first. I would have to consider my position. I would take a dignified position."

Thursday's meeting will be at The Insurance Hall, Aldermanbury, London, whose Great Hall holds 320. If all 31,469 Amstrad shareholders turn up, alternative arrangements will have to be made, Amstrad said.

Tempus, page 18

Abbey sells unclaimed shares

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

ABBEY National sold 28.9 million shares yesterday that had remained unclaimed since the bank converted from a building society in 1989. It is to give £5 million of the proceeds to charity and pocket the other £98 million.

The shares were bought by Warburgs and Kleinwort Benson at 356p and then placed with institutions at 360p. When the Abbey floated in 1989, 5.6 million qualifying members were offered 100 free shares in the bank, but

despite a long series of letters inviting them to apply, several hundred thousand never got round to it, and under the terms of the conversion the bank was allowed to sell the shares.

The 295,000 or so members who have not claimed can still do so at any time over the next six years. In the summer Abbey sent letters to 390,000 people it thought was eligible, and placed advertisements in newspapers. Since then 165,000 have made claims

and 95,000 have received 100 shares plus net dividends. A few are still being verified. Those who now make a claim will receive £356 plus dividends, net of tax.

Abbey National Charitable Trust will use the £5 million to make donations to a range of charities, including those for the homeless and giving debt advice.

The bank now has to decide how the £98 million will appear on its profit and loss account.

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Barclays plans for £200m provision over Imry exposure

By NEIL BENNETT

BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BARCLAYS is planning to make a £200 million provision against its lending to Imry, the troubled private property group, one of the largest bad debt provisions in history.

The bank is expected to reveal the provision in a special Stock Exchange announcement before Christmas. It has a £440 million exposure to Imry and is working closely with the company to ensure it stays afloat.

The City has been concerned about the size of Barclays' exposure to Imry for several months and the bank wants to make an announcement to remove fears that the provision will be even larger.

A spokesman for the bank

■ Barclays, Britain's biggest bank, will be obliged to make record provisions of more than £2 billion against bad debts this year and may be forced to cut its dividend

said reports of the provision and the forthcoming announcement were speculative and refused to comment on them. In 1990, however, the bank made a similar statement after the collapse of British & Commonwealth, the financial services group, when it made a £98 million provision.

The Imry provision will be the largest single element in record bad debt figures. Analysts expect the bank to make provisions of more than £2 billion on its lending. These

they forecast, could plunge the bank into losses of up to £100 million and force it to cut its dividend.

Reports of the provision against the Imry loans appear in the latest issue of *European Banker*, along with an exclusive interview of Sir John Quinton, the outgoing chairman of Barclays.

In the interview, he admits there was a breakdown in communication between the bank's head office and its regions in the late eighties. That led to a boom in commercial property loans even though the bank tried to impose a cap on the lending as early as 1988.

Sir John said: "We said that property lending had reached a certain point and that is where it has got to stop... but in practice, there was a good deal of property lending done within that cap." The bank's property loan book grew from £2.1 billion at the end of 1987 to £5.4 billion in 1991.

"We have been caught out by a number of lendings that were made in the 1988-9 era which, with hindsight, we should not have made. I think we could have been sterner in those days," he added.

Sir John said the bank had tried to improve internal communication but that lending policy was hampered by strong autonomy in the regions and local branches.

Investors are relieved that Britain and China will be meeting on Tuesday to attempt to resolve the current deadlock, but Anthony Galsworthy, British team leader of the joint liaison group, has refused to promise any positive result.

Meanwhile, Douglas Hurd, the foreign minister, has stressed London's full backing for Chris Patten, Hong Kong governor.

Hong Kong ends its losing streak

FROM LULU YU IN HONG KONG

HONG Kong shares rebounded sharply yesterday after four days' heavy losses. The Hang Seng index gained 290 points or 5.8 per cent, to close at 5,268 on a turnover of HK\$5.4 billion.

Bargain hunters pushed up prices in early trading after sharp gains made by Hong Kong shares in London overnight. But the index fell back in the afternoon as political uncertainties swept the stock market.

Hang Seng index futures closed at a discount after trading at a big premium, showing that sentiment eventually turned sour.

The rally was helped by the fact that while there was no solution to the dispute between Britain and China over the colony's political reforms, there had been no bad news either. Peking has issued no further threat to retaliate against British plans for Hong Kong democracy. But analysts

are not optimistic that the recovery will last. Most expect the index to fall below 5,000 again next week.

Alan Hargreaves, of Hoare Govett Asia, said the rebound was merely technical after the market's 8 per cent loss on Thursday. John Mulcahy, of Peregrine Brokerage, said that Hong Kong's political risk would be high in the minds of local and foreign investors. "The time hasn't come to pile in on the assumption that we have hit bottom."

Investors are relieved that Britain and China will be meeting on Tuesday to attempt to resolve the current deadlock, but Anthony Galsworthy, British team leader of the joint liaison group, has refused to promise any positive result.

Sir John stepped down as chief executive last summer and plans to retire as chairman at the end of the year. In the interview, he suggests he was disappointed that the board did not have a wider choice of possible successors.

Andrew Buxton, his replacement, is a member of one of the bank's founding families, but Sir John said he doubted that Mr Buxton's successor would also come from a bank family. He also suggested that Kuwaits, some believed to be members of the royal family, are also cited for alleged irregularities discovered by new KIO directors in connec-



Looking back: Sir John Quinton thinks bank should have been sterner on lending

Coal contracts 'should not prejudice' review

BY PATRICIA TEHAN

MICHAEL Heseltine, trade secretary, issued a veiled warning to the electricity industry yesterday, urging the generators and distribution companies to make sure their coal contracts "do not prejudice" the outcome of the government's review of the coal industry.

In reply to a parliamentary question on the coal contract negotiations from Matthew Carrington, Conservative MP for Fulham, Mr Heseltine said he had written to Neil Clarke, chairman of British Coal, the two electricity generators and the 12 supply companies in England and Wales, to make this clear.

The government's review is investigating the case for the planned closure of 21 pits and prospects for Britain's coal industry.

In the letter to Mr Clarke, Mr Heseltine stated that given



Heseltine letter to Clarke

deep concern about the outcome of the review, he hoped negotiations between British Coal and the electricity industry would lead to agreed arrangements that would "ensure a sound and stable basis for the British coal industry and the electricity supply industry to plan their business at least for 1993-4".

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Hong Kong howls

Hong Kong is reverberating to howls of anguish from the business community as the wildly fluctuating market is blamed on the democratisation policy of the governor Chris Patten...

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Flat outlook at Wolves & Dudley

DAVID Thompson at Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries was in an unusually downbeat mood yesterday. Not normally short of ideas on how the brewing industry should arrange its affairs, Mr Thompson was forced to admit that the purchase of Camerons a year ago, the company's biggest corporate move, had not been as successful as hoped.

Camerons, bought from Brent Walker for a remarkably cheap £20.5 million, will come good in the end but is still running on trading margins of just 2.4 per cent, and the expected dilution of Wolverhampton & Dudley's earnings in 1991-2 will now extend into the present year.

In the year to end-September, the group pushed taxable pre-property profits up from £32.7 million to £34.6 million, but the £1.9 million difference equalised income from acquisitions, primarily Camerons, added to the non-repeating exceptional cost.

Wolverhampton & Dudley's problems, despite its excellent management, are largely demographic and centre on its position in the Midlands



Simon: battling well

served. Evode's 1992 pre-tax profits progression in the 53 weeks ended October 3 - from £7.3 million to £10.2 million - and the advance at the operating level in profits from continuing operations from £11.8 million to £14.3 million, suggest Evode is battling well against the recession that has hit both sides of the Atlantic.

Net borrowings have been cut from £46.1 million to £28.5 million, and on

Evode's definition (the dollar preference issue is included as equity), gearing has been clipped from 78 per cent to 50 per cent. Excluding the preference capital, gearing is about 200 per cent, of which Wassall will make much play.

The final dividend is held at 8p a share, making an unchanged 3.58p, though this is not covered by reported basic earnings of 3.2p a share.

The thrust of Evode's defence is that shareholders should not, for a mere 80p, surrender at this point the opportunity of the rewards that are coming their way as their group makes further progress.

Pre-tax profits this year could edge up to £12.5 million, analysts suggest.

On present evidence from Evode, run by Andrew Simon, and with its share price at 91p, there is no reason to accept 80p from Wassall. Should Wassall come back with a higher offer, then Evode shareholders will have to think again. Meanwhile, Evode shareholders should sit tight.

GOVERNMENT securities had a quiet day, with most stocks ending little changed, after Wednesday's auction and Thursday's hectic follow-up.

"It's been a quiet end to a fairly frenetic week in the gilt market," Simon Thorp, head of gilt trading at County NatWest, said.

Gilts opened higher on the back of sterling's renewed strength, but prices fell back

towards their opening levels after sterling slipped back. American economic statistics failed to provide any stimulus. The domestic market did not find any encouragement from Europe as German and French bond markets dipped.

The gilt future ended two ticks firmer at £99 1/2, as volume for March reached 23,000 contracts.

Cash stocks saw good two-

way business and some profit taking, with shorts ending a few ticks higher while longs finished with losses of a few ticks. Dealers expect shorts to continue to do well on the back of anticipated rate cuts in Europe. Exchequer 9% per cent 1998 firmed two ticks to £109 1/2, while at the longer end Treasury 9 per cent 2012 gave up early gains to finish unchanged at £101 1/2.

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BUSINESS PROFILE: Tom Peters

Millionaire marketing guru who reigns supreme

Carol Leonard finds that America's highly paid business observer is an unexpectedly modest man

The Tom Peters roadshow was in town. It arrives in London once every three or four months, so that the American marketing guru, as he is traditionally styled, can give lucrative lectures — charging \$5,000 an hour — or promote his latest book.

On this occasion, Peters has crossed the Atlantic with the latter aim in mind. His coterie of public relations advisers have been masterminding the British launch of his new tome, *Liberation Management: Necessary Disorganisation for the Nanosecond Nineties*.

Peters co-operates with them fully. He knows only too well from whence his next dollar comes. This, after all, is his third major literary work. The first, *In Search of Excellence*, published almost ten years ago, has gone down in history as the biggest selling management title ever. It turned Peters into a millionaire from royalties alone.

The second, which hit the bookshops in 1989, was entitled *Thriving on Chaos*, and contradicted much of what had gone before. As his critics were quick to point out, the second book was necessary

'I hate talking money. Someone in my office negotiates. It's an absurd number'

because so many of the companies cited in the first book as "examples of excellence" had since fallen by the wayside. "Flexibility," according to Peters, was now the key management word.

Those same critics remain silent, however, when it comes to examining the management — or rather marketing — of Tom Peters himself. Even they are forced to admit that it is excellence in action. The Eighties have come and gone, the Nineties are well under way, and still Peters reigns supreme.

Newspaper reports abound of his style in the lecture hall. Of the way he roams around the audience, wearing a tweed jacket rather than a suit, speaking without notes for an entire day. Of the fees he is able to charge, averaging about £700 a head, with companies such as British Gas, Royal Mail, IBM, ICI and Shell happy to pay such sums so that their executives can hear first-hand what Peters has to say. As

with anything that appears to be so effortless, however, the preparations behind the scenes are exacting. His arrival in London to promote *Liberation Management* was, for example, heralded about six weeks before, with public relations assistants offering half-hour interview slots to every relevant journalist.

A request from *The Times* for a full hour was greeted with a gasp down the telephone line, hurried consultation and then, with disguised reluctance, agreement. The suites of rooms in the Park Lane Hotel had been booked, one as a service station for attendant flunkies, from which to ply Peters and his successive visitors with refreshments, and another in which the interviews could be conducted. Notice boards erected in the hotel corridor, announcing his presence, would be enough to send any more ordinary hotel guest who mistakenly found his

way on to the fourth floor, scuttling back into the lift. You begin to sense that here is an extraordinary mortal. Someone who needs to be cosseted and cared for like no other. Whose every utterance should be

written down and then analysed in case it contains a deeper meaning. It must be similar to the build-up given before a tabloid newspaper interview with, say, Billy Graham, Michael Jackson or Ivana Trump. This may be London's Piccadilly, but this is nevertheless the magnificent American marketing machine in full swing.

The door to the interview room is flung open and you brace yourself for that first encounter. There, carefully positioned in the middle of a sofa with an armchair either side, sits the unexpected figure of Peters. He is alone and looks entirely out of place. The tweed jacket is as described, but there are also scuffed, thick-soled, brown shoes, standard-issue grey flannel trousers and a tie. Peters says that the tie means that he has made an effort. "When in Rome, and all that..." At home, he lives in sweat-suits. In his office he teams a sweat shirt with denim jeans instead. Peters



Fresh focus: Tom Peters agrees to let *The Times* take a new shot at presenting his image

who has just turned 50, clearly has no problem with his naturally scruffy, relaxed appearance. He agrees that, left to his own devices, he looks very different to the person depicted in the carefully styled publicity photograph which has been supplied on demand, without variation, for the past three years.

He is compliant, however, when asked to pose for a new shot. As *The Times* photographer positions him in an upright chair, with a copy of the newspaper in his hands, Peters remarks that he is happy to be photographed, reading any page "except the stock price — I only buy stock in one company, and that's my own." An extraordinary statement from a man who is so sought after to advise others on how to govern their corporate affairs. At

the heart of any company is, after all, its balance sheet, and the pulse rate can be critically influenced by the investments it does or does not make. So where, I ask, does Peters, a former McKinsey consultant, with an MBA from Stanford, invest his own money?

"Ninety per cent of it is in real estate," he says. He means in the two houses in which he lives. "I don't have any financial planning at all and stocks and shares have never interested me. I wouldn't even know how to go about it. After the first book was written, my wife and I bought a very nice house in California. Then we got turned on by Vermont. We bought 1,300 acres, but less that sound like an estate, a lot of it is straight up, on a mountain. When we tried to find

an area to play croquet we couldn't

find enough land that was flat. I would like to think that my view of business is not that far removed from Anita Roddick's — that the essence of business is fun."

How then, does this unexpectedly modest man have the gall to charge such vast fees? "It's actually more like \$50,000 for a two-hour presentation," he begins. "It is obscene. Trust me, that's an obscene amount of money." Peters laughs. "But don't ask me why people pay it. ask the person who signs the cheque." He explains that he originally based his fee structure on the \$1,000 a day charged by McKinsey. "Then a wonderful thing happened to me. A woman came to work for us who had been a part-time saleswoman for Mary

"really unwretched, which I find a wretched phenomenon. I got good grades which I find disgusting. It feels very one-dimensional, but I do not think I was. I won some award for being more involved in extracurricular activities than anyone else, but I was never a good athlete. All young American males want to be great jocks and I was not."

Since the age of nine, Peters had wanted to be an architect and he eventually went to a school of architecture. He left after a few months. "I realised that I had no chance of being the next Frank Lloyd Wright. I had no flair. I switched to engineering instead. I'm still irritated at myself because of it."

He fell into his present career "entirely by chance" and finally found an area where he did have flair. Although it is not true that he speaks entirely without notes — "I do have a prompt sheet" — he had always been a good talker. In debating contests in high school, marks were given for presentation and rebuttal. "I used to score reasonably well in presentation and automatically win in rebuttal."

Yet despite the bravado, and the polish and charm, Peters obviously exudes when he is performing, as he sits alone on his sofa there is an obvious internal sense of reserve. An area where few people are allowed to go. He is not the brash, uninhibited exhibitionist his reputation might lead you to believe. "Yes, I

am definitely a loner," he says. That feeling runs deep within him. "When I go to a social function or a party, even if it is with one or two friends, I start getting quivers several hours before. They are truly agony for me. Perhaps I am a borderline depressive. Give me any scenario and I will always see the worst side."

Peters admits to being fascinated by amateur psychology. He has used it to his advantage and on himself. I asked him how such a person could stand up in front of hundreds of complete strangers and repeatedly deliver such extraordinary performances that his customers keep coming back for more.

"It has been said by wiser heads than mine that large numbers of people who spend their professional lives on a stage and in the theatre are phenomenally shy and use the public expression of theatre as their outlet. My mother was genuinely gregarious. I am phenomenally shy."

As a schoolboy he was, he says,

'I would be a fool to say my life-style hasn't changed, but I have avoided the social crap'

Matthew Bond

Raise your glasses, Norman has seen little green shoots again

RICHARD WILLSON

Prepare to be overjoyed. I have the most wonderful news for each and every one of you. Our troubles are over, the dark days behind us. Recovery is at last, on its way.

Yes, yes, it's official. Rush with impunity to your local Threshers and lay in the fizz. Happy days are here again.

What's that? How do I know? Well, that's easy, I got a phone call from you-know-who. Well, to be strictly accurate, I had two calls, but the first was from some double-barrelled law firm wanting to reverse the charges and we have an in-house rule about not accepting those. But the second was from the man himself — Norman Lamont, in person. To say the Chancellor was on form is an understatement. He was effervescent.

"Matthew old mucker," he bellowed, if I read my somewhat rusty shorthand correctly. "I've found them!"

"Calm down, calm down," I replied, as the gable continued. "Start at the beginning and tell me the whole story."

He did, eventually, and the gist of what a still excited Mr Lamont had to say I will now relate. Well...

You remember those green shoots of recovery? How can we forget them. I hear you say, those mythical metaphors best known for their indefinite (indefinite?) inappropriateness. Well, not so fast. The Chancellor has found them! Seems they were never missing at all — just mislaid.

They turned up, as we all know things do, while he was engaged in what sounds like a pretty frantic search for something else. Not one corner of his many residences was left unrummaged through. Whether he found what he was originally looking for, Mr Lamont was a little vague about, but there was no hiding his joy at finally putting his hands on those little old green shoots that even he was beginning to think lost forever. But there they were — tucked in the top pocket of a long-forgotten



sports jacket. "Honestly Matthew, I could have kicked myself," he finished. With supreme restraint, I said nothing about the several million volunteers who would be happy to save him the effort.

"How many of these shoots are there?" I asked. "Oh, a good handful," he enthused. "A very good handful."

Politely, I enquired for more details. "Well, the best looking one is M0, which is growing like there's no tomorrow." Advanced readers can award themselves an extra mark for knowing that for coincident indicators like M0, there is no tomorrow.

Quick as a flash, I interrupted. "Hang on, Norman. Five Green Shoots with One Called M0. Get me Lloyd Webber. I feel a musical coming on."

"Oh do shut up, you fool. I'm telling you about M0. You know, the coins and folding notes in your pocket." And credit card slips in your jack-

M ust be all those credit card slips. I thought, before quietly suggesting another possibility. "People phoning their jobcentres?"

There was a pause. I sensed growing hostility at the other end of the telephone. A ges-

ture of conciliation was needed. "A trend which the freezing of the cost of inland calls can only help?" It worked. "Quite, quite."

The Chancellor returned to his theme. "Then, of course, there is the impact of lower interest rates beginning to come through, the lack of which was one of the main reasons I mislaid the green shoots in the first place. What a difference a year and no more Helmut Schlesinger makes. House prices have already turned the corner."

"That's the 0.1 per cent rise in the Halifax house price index in November you're referring to? What about the 2 per cent fall that the Nationwide index shows?"

"Even Chancellors need a little 'Xtra help," he bubbled. "But it is not just the housing market that is moving the right way. The stock market's just hit a new all-time high: the pound is positively resurgent against the dollar and mark and Germany looks smack on course for recession. The markets are never wrong, you know. They weren't wrong in September and they're not wrong now." If Chancellors could skip while on the telephone, Mr Lamont would have done so.

"So who was wrong in September?" I asked, only to be answered by a tmeaf of *Everything's Coming Up Roses*.

I persisted. "And what about all these job losses — 85,000 since September, almost 20,000 this week alone. Whatever happened to the Going for Growth plan?"

The roses stopped coming up. "Going for Growth? Dame, when was that?" The sound of desperate hands being slapped on empty pockets could be heard down the telephone line. "Was that October? Which suit was I wearing? Or were we in the country? My gardening trousers, perhaps? Or my dinner jacket? Please God, not my white tie..."

Canceled that Champagne. Cheap claret should suffice for now.

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GATWICK-AMSTERDAM

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MON	FRI
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08.30	10.35
11.15 ⁽¹⁾	13.15
12.50	14.55
17.00	19.05
18.50 ⁽²⁾	20.50
20.30	22.30
SAT	SUN
08.30 ⁽²⁾	10.35
12.50	14.55
17.00	19.05
20.30	22.30
21.15 ⁽³⁾	23.15

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06.45	06.50
07.50	07.55
10.30 ⁽¹⁾	10.35
12.00	12.05
16.15	16.15
18.00	18.00
19.45	19.45
SAT	SUN
07.50 ⁽²⁾	07.55
12.00	12.05
16.15	16.15
19.45 ⁽³⁾	19.45
20.30 ⁽³⁾	20.30

1=MON-FRIDAY ONLY
2=SAT ONLY
3=SUN ONLY

Holland

Transavia



Transavia Airlines is part of the KLM group of companies

City scents Gardner Merchant deal

THE betting in the City is that Forte is about to sell its Gardner Merchant contract catering arm for a sum that could exceed £400 million.

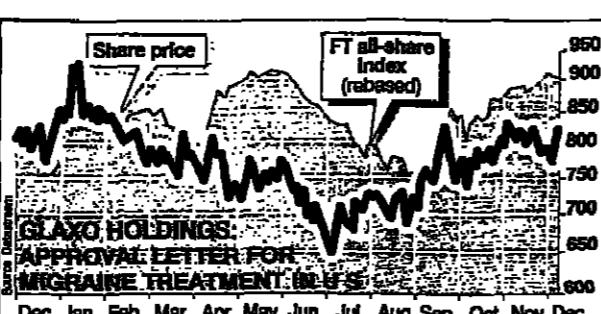
The buyer is thought to be a consortium of institutions, headed by the venture capital arm of British Coal Pension Funds, which is close to clinching the deal. The existing management of Gardner Merchant, the subject of a failed £500 million offer from Compass Group last year, will move across, but are not expected to take a large stake.

Gardner Merchant's airport catering arm, which accounts for about one-fifth of the

division, will be retained by Forte. An announcement is possible early next week.

Shares in P&O, which had been mentioned as a possible buyer, were initially marked down by 25p, but they ended at 450p, down 18p. Forte shares, bolstered by reports of option activity, firmend 2p to 169p, after touching 174p, on volume of 2.8 million shares.

Meanwhile, equities slipped back despite sterling's renewed strength as reports of a couple of sell programme trades and lower futures prompted some profit-taking, pushing prices lower towards the close in an erratic trading



GLAXO HOLDINGS
APPROVAL LETTER FOR
MIGRAINE TREATMENT

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

session, the FT-SE 100 index ended down 11.6 points, at 2,759.4, having been up 4.5 at the start. Volume reached a healthy 676.1 million shares, as 360p a share with institutional investors. The shares, understood to have been bought from Abbey at 356p, were those that were unclaimed by investors, or unallocated, when Abbey converted from a building a society to a bank in July 1989.

The placing raised about £103 million, with £5 million of going to Abbey's Charitable Trust. Shares in the Abbey National, which had its debt rating cut on Thursday by Moody's Investors Service, the American debt rating agency, fell 7p to 366p, on volume of 66 million shares.

Meanwhile, Hong Kong-related stocks remained jittery despite an overnight rebound, as China threatened to scrap the 1984 agreement to scrap the special car tax, although figures for the first 11 months of 1992 were down 1.3 per cent.

November's sales were viewed positively, helping Lex Service add 12p to 23p. T Cowie 1p to 140p, European Motor 2p to 79p and Jessups 2p to 55p.

William Baird slipped 11p to 210p after reports that James Capel had trimmed its profit forecast. Unilever slid 14p to 105.2p as some traders switched into the NV, the Dutch quoted shares, for currency reasons.

Resort Hotels plunged 8p to 16p, although the shares recovered to close at 19p after the company issued a statement to the Stock Exchange saying that it was not aware of any reason for the fall.

Meville Group was a late casualty, sliding from an overnight level of 11p to just 6p after it revealed a slump in profits and passed its dividend.

ed to see that it looks set for launch in the early part of next year." America is the most important market, with the drug's sales forecast to reach \$1 billion over the next few years.

ICI lost 12p to £10.36 as UBS Phillips and Drew downgraded its profit forecasts on concern that already difficult European trading conditions were getting tougher. P&D has cut this year's pre-tax profit estimate from £528 million to £580 million, with next year's cut from £800 million to £700 million. Second liners enjoyed decent volume again, as institutional investors took

Argyll Group, owner of Safeway, rose 5p to 393p, after a buy recommendation from Credit Lyonnais Laing, CLL, says the interims underlined its proven retail formula.

an interest in potential recovery stocks that have been neglected and in the additional 150 companies joining the FT-A All-share index from next year.

The beleaguered motor industry received a fillip from news that new car sales rose by 6.2 per cent last month, boosted by last month's abolition of the special car tax, although figures for the first 11 months of 1992 were down 1.3 per cent.

November's sales were viewed positively, helping Lex Service add 12p to 23p. T Cowie 1p to 140p, European Motor 2p to 79p and Jessups 2p to 55p.

William Baird slipped 11p to 210p after reports that James Capel had trimmed its profit forecast. Unilever slid 14p to 105.2p as some traders switched into the NV, the Dutch quoted shares, for currency reasons.

Resort Hotels plunged 8p to 16p, although the shares recovered to close at 19p after the company issued a statement to the Stock Exchange saying that it was not aware of any reason for the fall.

Meville Group was a late casualty, sliding from an overnight level of 11p to just 6p after it revealed a slump in profits and passed its dividend.

PHILIP PANGALOS

Blue chips firm in early trading

New York — Blue chips were firm in choppy mid-morning trading while secondary issues posted a moderate gain. Blue chips opened higher but then dipped into negative ground as profit takers emerged.

Tom Luker, head of the trading desk at Nikko Securities, said the November US employment report was encouraging, but still showed that the economy was improving at a small's pace.

The Dow Jones industrial average was up 11.61 points to 3,288.14.

■ Singapore — Share prices closed easier in late profit-taking as fund managers, interested in the Hong Kong market, dealers said. The Straits Times industrial index ended at 1,442.70, down 5.64 points from Thursday.

■ Sydney — The Australian share market traded over a tight range. Brokers said that investors took to the sidelines

in droves, awaiting some direction from offshore markets, particularly Hong Kong. The All-Ordinaries index closed 1.4 up, at 1,435.2.

■ Frankfurt — The Dax index ended off the day's low, depressed by a general lack of

(Reuter)

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The Dax slipped 10.34 points to a 1,522.16 close, after hitting a low of 1,521.13 in early trading.

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Tips of the job are a taxable perk

By LIZ DOLAN

TAXI drivers, questioned about whether they declare all their tips to the Inland Revenue, are likely to change the subject with alacrity, pausing only to mention just how badly business has fallen recently. Few, if any, will give a frank account of whether the full amount of income derived from tipping ever finds its way on to their tax form.

Officially, no taxi driver can dodge the system. A Licensed Taxi Drivers' Association spokesman said: "The tax man is now very good at dealing with the black economy. Years ago, the situation was very different. But now, taxi drivers have to pay the full amount."

"I would say the situation is now skewed in favour of the Revenue. For instance, people who work less hours because of the recession, or have gone into semi-retirement, are often assessed as though they are still working a full week."

He refused to dismiss as paranoid claims that the Revenue employs former taxi drivers as undercover agents to assess drivers' true incomes.

However, an accountant who numbers several taxi drivers among his clients, tells a different story. "A cab driver can only be assessed on the information he is prepared to give. The Inland Revenue uses

various formulae when estimating his likely income, but they have no way of knowing exactly how much he has earned."

This is because each driver is responsible for keeping his own records, based on the daily total recorded on his clock. It is not possible for an outside authority to check that the records are based on an accurate daily reading, the accountant said.

The Inland Revenue's estimates depend primarily on the amount of relief claimed for fuel expenses. Calculations are then made using a complicated formula derived from years of experience in dealing with taxi drivers' tax assessments.

When preparing estimates, the Inland Revenue adds 10 per cent of basic turnover for tips, and a further 5 per cent for additional charges for luggage and journeys that involve more than one



existence of set formulae. A spokesman said: "We have to proceed on the assumption that parties are honest and do declare their full income. Some people do escape the net, of course, but they run the risk of being caught, which will mean having to pay penalties such as fines and interest on the unpaid tax

from the date on which it was due."

Penalties charged can be as much as twice the unpaid tax, but they depend on the gravity of the offence and the amount of co-operation shown when the tax dodger is finally brought to book.

Restaurant workers whose employers operate a tip

pooling system. When tips are paid cash in hand, there is no official way of checking.

The Inland Revenue may decide to pursue an individual if it suspects tips have not been declared, but this normally depends on the likely wealth of the restaurant's clientele.

However, many restaurant workers never see the tips they have earned. There is no legal requirement for employers to pass on money added to the bill by unsuspecting customers and, according to estimates made by the General Union, the GMB, fewer than half of all restaurant workers receive more than their basic wages.

A GMB spokesman said that this sad state of affairs could easily have deteriorated further in the recession, although he had no hard evidence that this was the case.

Tipping is not the only additional income that attracts tax.

While most people are aware of taxable perks such as company cars, they may be surprised to learn that the firm's Christmas party, or annual dinner dance, may also land them with a tax bill. Events provided for large sections of the staff that cost more than £50 a head will result in an extra deduction from individual salaries. If the value of the perk goes above the £50 limit, tax is charged on the full amount.

Insurers assess cost of stormy weather

DRAMATIC television and press pictures of flooded village streets and waterlogged vehicles have given the impression that insurers will face massive claims for flood damage (Liz Dolan writes). Although reports of devastation in Wales and the West Country have led to insurance company shares being marked down on the stock market, the companies appear to be taking a more sanguine view. Most of the flooding has occurred over pastureland which, while bad news for rabbits and field moles, is unlikely to affect many humans.

Mike Dunderdale, managing director of Robins, Davies & Ware, a West Country loss adjuster, said: "We're not expecting to be asked to investigate a huge amount of claims. The Swansea office is a bit busy and the Taunton office is seeing some business, but, for the most part, the floods really didn't happen as far as we're concerned."

A spokesman for Royal Insurance agreed: "It's really not a problem. Obviously it's very bad news for some of our clients, but the cost to us is only likely to be about the same as you might expect after a windy night." It was too early to estimate how much Royal would have to pay out, he said.

Individual claims for flooding tend to be quite expensive, but they are often delayed for some time, as a proper assessment is impossible until the property has dried out completely. Loss adjusters might advise waiting to see whether a carpet, for instance, or wall,

that appears to have been badly affected when stopping wet, improves enough to salvage later on, the spokesman said.

Under Royal's basic household policy, families are rehoused until their homes become habitable once more. Royal takes responsibility for drying out the property, with the use of aids such as industrial heaters. "It is only then that we can even start to look at a claim."

Steve Turner, superintendent, household, at Sun Alliance, said: "It's early days yet. Sometimes people don't contact us for a long time, so we can't be sure how many claims we're going to get. However, the overall view is that the damage is not as expensive as was feared earlier in the week." He said that one loss adjuster in the South East had told him he was inundated with work, but "he may be unusual".

People in flooded areas are advised to contact insurers at once so that damage limitation can begin. The Association of British Insurers advises taking emergency precautions as soon as possible. It says: "Don't use gas or electricity until you're told it's safe to do so. Wherever possible, keep doors and windows open and lift floorboards to aid the drying process. Don't redecorate too early and make sure areas under suspended floorboards have dried out thoroughly, or you may get dry rot later on."

Premiums are unlikely to be affected unless the situation worsened considerably.

Tax help put on video

By SARA McCONNELL

THE Inland Revenue has produced a free video and booklet for people about to start up in business.

The video outlines seven steps self-employed people need to take if they are not to fall foul of the taxman and is the first in what the Revenue hopes will become a series on different aspects of the tax system.

Self-employed people and tax officers featured in the video, *Getting tax right from the start*, stress that people setting up on their own should contact the local tax office before starting to trade.

Keeping a clear record of business receipts and earnings and day-to-day expenditure once the business has started is vital. The booklet is the video lists rent, heat, light and telephone, insurance, the costs

of running the car, printing, stationery and staff wages as some of the expenses that can be set against tax.

Those who employ staff are responsible for deducting tax under the pay as you earn system and paying it to the Revenue. At the end of each year, accounts for the business must be filed with the Revenue, otherwise an estimated assessment will be made. The Revenue says those with a turnover of less than £15,000 just have to supply a three-line account showing total turnover, total business expenses and net profit.

The video is available from the Revenue's 400 tax enquiry offices.

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Bank fees and interest charges top list of complaints to ombudsman

Loans should carry a health warning

BY LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

BANKS should put limits on guarantees for loans made by spouses, business partners or parents, Laurence Shurman, the banking ombudsman, said when publishing his annual report.

He has dealt with several cases where a wife has acted as guarantor and allowed the family home to be secured on a business loan for her husband. The loan was small and here "was a spirit of natural love and affection". By the time the cases reach the ombudsman, the couple have often split up and the amount owed is much larger.

In other cases reported to Weekend Money, parents act as guarantors for one loan and are surprised when their children take on subsequent loans that the parents are expected to honour. "There should always be a health warning for any guarantor stating what the maximum liability will be," the ombudsman said.

During the year to end-September, the number of complaints received by his office rose by 60 per cent to more than 10,000. Those about charges and interest topped the list at 1,939 — although most of these were beyond the ombudsman's jurisdiction. Of those cases fully investigated, more than a third concerned cash dispensers.

Mr Shurman believes that the banking code of practice, introduced in March, will reduce the number of problems in this area. The code limits fees to £50 when a card is used by a third party without the holder's consent, unless he or she has been grossly negligent. However, grossly negligent behaviour is not specified. Writing the personal identification number on the



Fair play: Laurence Shurman, left, with Dame Mary Donaldson, chairman of the office of the banking ombudsman

card is obviously asking for trouble.

In one case decided by the office since the code was introduced, Mr Shurman found for the customer and told the bank that he expected it to use the case as guidance in future cases.

Banks had feared a flood of false claims after the code came in and some dubbed it a "fraudster's charter". They believed that the computers operating the cash dispensers cannot be activated without a correct personal identification number and if a third party has used one the customer must have been negligent.

Lloyds Bank said that it referred the case to the ombudsman because it wanted

guidance on what he regarded as gross negligence.

Mr Shurman said that it was possible for numbers to be seen by third parties. Some machines are set low down, making it easy for anyone in the queue to observe the number. Others are positioned in such a way that the customer has to move to one side to be able to see the instructions in bright sunlight.

The ombudsman said he had found plenty of evidence of fraud. Often it involved someone known to the complainant. "Cases have happened through other sources inside the banks and from other third party means."

In one case, a bank did not act quickly enough to cancel a

card that was reported stolen. The bank said that £150 was withdrawn before the theft was reported and £500 was withdrawn afterwards. As a gesture of goodwill, the bank credited the customer with £325 — half the money lost. The ombudsman ruled that the bank was not entitled to enforce its strict contractual conditions. The customer's loss was reduced to £150. If the case had happened after the code came into operation, the customer might only have had £50 to pay, the report said.

A dispenser's audit trail was examined in every disputed case. Cash dispenser fraud could be reduced by giving customers a choice of personal identification numbers so they

could be remembered more easily, by limiting the amount of cash that can be dispensed, monitoring suspicious withdrawal patterns and sending more frequent statements on savings accounts with cash cards. With the latter, large sums can be withdrawn without the customer knowing.

The cost of closing an account is another source of contention with customers. In one case, a bank had levied £10 for closing the account of a deceased customer. It was not until the solicitor told the bank that it had referred the complaint to the ombudsman that a refund was made.

Mr Shurman said he would not back customers who claimed the same cost for

writing letters that the banks charged customers. Customers might be able to claim they earned £50 an hour in their work but when they wrote to their banks they were not working in this capacity. In most cases he ruled that the time of a customer was worth £5 to £10 an hour.

Time taken off work for bank meetings would be paid for if the customer lost wages because of them. An architect who claimed £25,000 for his own time in sorting out overpayment of interest of £16,000 on two property loans was paid £500 or 50p an hour for the time claimed.

In another case, three sisters in their nineties sought advice from a bank's financial services adviser. He defrauded them of £12,000. After a long delay, the bank repaid the £12,000, but refused any additional compensation. Eventually, the bank decided to pay interest of £3,000, £500 for inconvenience and distress and £750 plus VAT for legal fees.

A couple whose cheque was bounced, preventing them from buying a car in which they were tenants, were awarded £27,000 in compensation. The bank, however, took £22,000 of this to cover money owed from the customer's business account.

The ombudsman may be contacted by writing to the Office of the Banking Ombudsman, Citadel House, 5-11 Fener Lane, London EC4A 1BR. Complaints should have worked their way through the bank's complaints procedures before being referred. However, if a bank is tardy in handling a case, the ombudsman can hurry things along. A pilot study is being carried out to see if the complaints procedure can be speeded up.

Comment, page 21

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Friendly society may have to impose levy

BY SARA McCONNELL

HOLDERS of policies at the Lancashire & Yorkshire Assurance Society, the friendly society that this week suspended new business, may have to pay a levy to cover a £4 million loss sustained by the society on property investments.

The society said a levy was one option being considered. This could be in the order of 45 per cent of the policy's value for each of the society's 25,000 policies in force.

The vast majority of these policies, some 70,000, had exposure to property investments, although nearly 6,000 of the members had endorsements on their policies that specified contributions could not be invested in property.

Since 1989, these investments have been held in the Capital Secure Board. The value of the property portfolio is now £2.5 million, less than

General Accident changes policies

GENERAL Accident has changed its motor policies and home insurance for new customers after carrying out extensive research on what motorists and homeowners want (Lindsay Cook writes).

The MotorOptions policy offers basic comprehensive cover throughout Europe and allows motorists to decide what extras they want. These include replacement car hire at £32. Breakdown assistance, provided by Europ Assistance, is offered for an extra £49.75 and legal expenses insurance at £10.

The new policy will also have an additional no claims bonus for customers who have already earned the 60 per cent discount. This will give them a total discount of 66 per cent.

The company already offers a no claims discount on its home policies of up to 25 per cent. It is now launching a bedroom-based policy, but allowing policyholders to add to it where their possessions exceed the limits. The premiums are based on numbers of bedrooms and postcodes, but the company is using its 65 regional offices to improve the risk assessments of areas. Subsidence, for example, is not normally contained within post code districts.

HomeOptions is intended to simplify insurance. The basic contents policy will offer cover for fire, flood and theft. Customers can add an accidental damage and cover for possessions outside the home.

The standard excess is £50, which means that policyholders will pay the first £50 of any claim. Those who are willing to pay the first £250 on a buildings policy get a 25 per cent discount. With contents the discount is 20 per cent. Higher discounts can be earned with larger excesses.

Norwich Union will, from next month, offer a 10 per cent discount for household policyholders who have not made a claim for three years. This is in addition to the 10 per cent discount introduced in July for those who have held a policy for three consecutive years.

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11	Morrison (W)	Food	
12	Midlands Elec	Electricity	
13	Ashen Hume	Finance, Land	
14	Sth Western	Electricity	
15	T & N	Industrial	
16	Countrywide	Building Bds	
17	Ferby Group	Industrial	
18	Barry (AG) Ltd	Foods	
19	Laporte	Chem. Plus	
20	Sth Wales	Electricity	
21	South West	Water	
22	Teat & Syle	Foods	
23	Herring Baker	Property	
24	Young 'A'	Breweries	
25	Northern Elec	Electricity	
26	Takeda Chem	Industrial	
27	Southern Elec	Electricity	
28	Wilson (C)	Building Bds	
29	Lotman	Industrial	
30	Staveley	Industrial	
31	PWS	Insurance	
32	Chesnuring	Industrial	
33	Rothmans 'B'	Tobaccos	
34	Comtaude	Chem. Plus	
35	Gold Greenh	Paper, Print	
36	Trinity Ind	Newspaper, Pub	
37	London Elec	Electricity	
38	Northumbrian	Water	
39	Owners Abad	Leisure	
40	Frost Group	Industrial	
© Times Newspapers Ltd. Total			

Please take into account any minus signs

£1,000 MATCH THE SHARES

If you have ticked off your eighth share in our Match The Shares game today, you could win £1,000 or £52,772 between 10,000am and 3.30pm (see the Sunday Times for full details)

The winner of yesterday's Portfolio Plus prize of £4,000 was Mr A Robson of Hamble, Southampton.

1992 High Low Company	Price	div	Net	Yld	%	P/E
182 Alderley Rd	366	7	305	2.8	12.6	
183 Alderley Rd	366	7	305	2.8	12.6	
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272 Alderley Rd	366	7	305	2.8	12.6	
273 Alderley Rd	366	7	305	2.8	12.6	
274 Alderley Rd	366	7	305	2.8	12.6	
275						

THE TIMES UNIT-TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE											
BU	Offer	Wdty	Ytd	BU	Offer	Wdty	Ytd	BU	Offer	Wdty	Ytd
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
ABBEY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS	6145 717373	16.13	102.30	-2.40	2.11	10.13	102.30	30.38	10.13	102.30	30.38
Majestinet	6145 717373	10.7	10.12	4.5	5.9	10.12	10.12	10.12	10.12	10.12	10.12
International	6145 717373	10.12	10.12	1.23	1.23	10.12	10.12	10.12	10.12	10.12	10.12
Global Cm Ctr	6145 717373	50.04	61.14	-0.14	3.14	50.04	61.14	1.23	50.04	61.14	1.23
Growth	6145 717373	55.26	55.26	0.24	3.51	55.26	55.26	55.26	55.26	55.26	55.26
Worldwide Inv	6145 717373	26.49	26.49	-1.03	4.79	26.49	26.49	26.49	26.49	26.49	26.49
Gilt Fund Inv	6145 717373	12.50	13.70	-1.00	7.11	12.50	13.70	1.00	12.50	13.70	1.00
ASTRUST MANAGEMENT LTD	6224 433707	18.13	23.77	-1.48	2.07	18.13	23.77	2.07	18.13	23.77	2.07
Dealing	6224 433707	30.00	31.58	1.00	2.57	30.00	31.58	2.57	30.00	31.58	2.57
UK Inv Cm Inv	6224 433707	70.33	70.33	0.03	2.57	70.33	70.33	2.57	70.33	70.33	2.57
Exempt	6224 433707	40.65	40.65	-0.03	2.57	40.65	40.65	2.57	40.65	40.65	2.57
FTC Energy Inv	6224 433707	22.75	22.75	-0.03	4.33	22.75	22.75	4.33	22.75	22.75	4.33
ALLIED INDUNA UNIT TRUSTS	6783 516161	30.10	30.20	-0.20	4.43	30.10	30.20	4.43	30.10	30.20	4.43
Allied Indunia Cm Inv	6783 516161	12.25	20.50	-2.25	3.25	12.25	20.50	3.25	12.25	20.50	3.25
High Inv	6783 516161	10.20	10.20	-0.20	2.25	10.20	10.20	2.25	10.20	10.20	2.25
Balanced	6783 516161	51.00	51.00	-0.20	2.75	51.00	51.00	2.75	51.00	51.00	2.75
American Inv	6783 516161	42.40	42.50	-0.10	2.25	42.40	42.50	2.25	42.40	42.50	2.25
American Inv Val	6783 516161	12.00	12.00	-0.20	1.25	12.00	12.00	1.25	12.00	12.00	1.25
Japan Inv	6783 516161	12.70	12.70	-0.20	1.25	12.70	12.70	1.25	12.70	12.70	1.25
Seas Inv	6783 516161	30.00	30.00	-0.20	3.00	30.00	30.00	3.00	30.00	30.00	3.00
ANX EQUITY & LAW FUND	6783 516161	30.13	30.13	-0.19	2.07	30.13	30.13	2.07	30.13	30.13	2.07
European Inv	6783 516161	23.77	23.77	-0.19	2.07	23.77	23.77	2.07	23.77	23.77	2.07
Exempt	6783 516161	40.65	40.65	-0.19	2.07	40.65	40.65	2.07	40.65	40.65	2.07
FTC Energy Inv	6783 516161	22.75	22.75	-0.19	4.33	22.75	22.75	4.33	22.75	22.75	4.33
BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD	6801 110000	30.10	30.20	-0.20	4.43	30.10	30.20	4.43	30.10	30.20	4.43
Grey Inv	6801 110000	11.00	11.00	-0.20	2.25	11.00	11.00	2.25	11.00	11.00	2.25
Capital	6801 110000	10.70	10.70	-0.20	2.25	10.70	10.70	2.25	10.70	10.70	2.25
FTC Inv	6801 110000	10.20	10.20	-0.20	2.25	10.20	10.20	2.25	10.20	10.20	2.25
High Inv	6801 110000	10.20	10.20	-0.20	2.25	10.20	10.20	2.25	10.20	10.20	2.25
Balanced	6801 110000	51.11	51.11	-0.20	2.75	51.11	51.11	2.75	51.11	51.11	2.75
Global Inv	6801 110000	42.40	42.50	-0.10	2.25	42.40	42.50	2.25	42.40	42.50	2.25
Global Cm Inv	6801 110000	12.00	12.00	-0.20	1.25	12.00	12.00	1.25	12.00	12.00	1.25
BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD	6801 110000	11.00	11.00	-0.20	2.25	11.00	11.00	2.25	11.00	11.00	2.25
Grey Inv	6801 110000	10.70	10.70	-0.20	2.25	10.70	10.70	2.25	10.70	10.70	2.25
Capital	6801 110000	10.20	10.20	-0.20	2.25	10.20	10.20	2.25	10.20	10.20	2.25
FTC Inv	6801 110000	10.20	10.20	-0.20	2.25	10.20	10.20	2.25	10.20	10.20	2.25
High Inv	6801 110000	10.20	10.20	-0.20	2.25	10.20	10.20	2.25	10.20	10.20	2.25
Balanced	6801 110000	51.11	51.11	-0.20	2.75	51.11	51.11	2.75	51.11	51.11	2.75
Global Inv	6801 110000	42.40	42.50	-0.10	2.25	42.40	42.50	2.25	42.40	42.50	2.25
Global Cm Inv	6801 110000	12.00	12.00	-0.20	1.25	12.00	12.00	1.25	12.00	12.00	1.25
BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD	6801 110000	11.00	11.00	-0.20	2.25	11.00	11.00	2.25	11.00	11.00	2.25
Grey Inv	6801 110000	10.70	10.70	-0.20	2.25	10.70	10.70	2.25	10.70	10.70	2.25
Capital	6801 110000	10.20	10.20	-0.20	2.25	10.20	10.20	2.25	10.20	10.20	2.25
FTC Inv	6801 110000	10.20	10.20	-0.20	2.25	10.20	10.20	2.25	10.20	10.20	2.25
High Inv	6801 110000	10.20	10.20	-0.20	2.25	10.20	10.20	2.25	10.20	10.20	2.25
Balanced	6801 110000	51.11	51.11	-0.20	2.75	51.11	51.11	2.75	51.11	51.11	2.75
Global Inv	6801 110000	42.40	42.50	-0.10	2.25	42.40	42.50	2.25	42.40	42.50	2.25
Global Cm Inv	6801 110000	12.00	12.00	-0.20	1.25	12.00	12.00	1.25	12.00	12.00	1.25
BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD	6801 110000	11.00	11.00	-0.20	2.25	11.00	11.00	2.25	11.00	11.00	2.25
Grey Inv	6801 110000	10.70	10.70	-0.20	2.25	10.70	10.70	2.25	10.70	10.70	2.25
Capital	6801 110000	10.20	10.20	-0.20	2.25	10.20	10.20	2.25	10.20	10.20	2.25
FTC Inv	6801 110000	10.20	10.20	-0.20	2.25	10.20	10.20	2.25	10.20	10.20	2.25
High Inv	6801 110000	10.20	10.20	-0.20	2.25	10.20	10.20	2.25	10.20	10.20	2.25
Balanced	6801 110000	51.11	51.11	-0.20	2.75	51.11	51.11	2.75	51.11	51.11	2.75
Global Inv	6801 110000	42.40	42.50	-0.10	2.25	42.40	42.50	2.25	42.40	42.50	2.25
Global Cm Inv	6801 110000	12.00	12.00	-0.20	1.25	12.00	12.00	1.25	12.00	12.00	1.25
BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD	6801 110000	11.00	11.00	-0.20	2.25	11.00</td					

GOLF

Dispute bugs Faldo as he surrenders second-round lead

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

UNSETTLED by a rules dispute involving Ernie Els, his playing partner, Nick Faldo slipped two shots off the pace after the second round of the Million Dollar Challenge in Sun City, South Africa.

The British golfer, the overnight leader after a first-round 69, ended two shots adrift of the three joint leaders, Els, his fellow South African, David Frost, and Nick Price, who were on 139, five under par.

The controversy arose on the 2nd hole. Faldo objected when Els used his putter to brush away a beetle sitting on the line of his putt. Tournament officials ruled later that, under local regulations, the action was acceptable, although in Europe or the

United States a penalty stroke would have been imposed.

Faldo, upset that officials had not resolved the dispute until the end of the round, said: "If somebody had known the bloody rules they could have told us straightforward and it would have been no problem at all. There was nothing wrong with what he [Els] did.

If they could have told me that straightforward it would have been over and done with and we could have got on with it."

"You can brush a bug off your line [with a club] over here but not in Europe or America. Obviously, you've got man-eating bugs over here."

Faldo said he was not allowing the right amount of

break on the greens, and that the controversy had not helped his performance. It was not surprising that three southern Africans were in the lead, he said, because they had been born and raised "playing on Kikuyu grass at 5,000ft. I learned to play on mud below sea level in the pouring rain".

Els, 23 and contesting Sun City's million dollar first prize for the first time, praised Faldo for his professionalism. "It was very nice playing with Nick," Els said. "He just came out straight with it. We had a nice battle out there today."

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Bernhard Langer, of Germany, the defending champion who set a tournament record total of 272 last year, went round in three, under par, despite a double bogey on the 8th when an advertising sign deflected his drive into the rough. "I played quite well but I got a very bad break on the 8th," Langer said. "If that sign hadn't been there, which it shouldn't have, the ball would have been on the fairway. The sign was in the landing zone."

All the leading players except Faldo recorded better rounds yesterday than they had on Thursday, when gusting winds played havoc with club selection, although Ian Woosnam remains nine shots off the lead.

Price, who registered five birdies in his 67, the best score of the day, said he had overcome his nerves. "Today I just felt a lot more comfortable and just let my clubs do the talking," Price said.

Leading SECOND ROUND SCORES (Australians in bold): 69. R. Els (SA); 69. M. Els (SA); 68. I. Woosnam (GB); 68. N. Faldo (GB); 68. E. Els (SA); 68. D. Frost (SA); 68. N. Price (GB); 68. R. Price (GB); 70. J. Sponer (GB); 71. T. Faldo (GB); 72. C. Westen (GB); 70. M. Lopez (MEX); 74. A. Montgomerie (CAN); 74. D. P. Smith (GB); 75. G. N. Naylor (NZ); 75. J. Van de Velde (BEL); 74. 68. Kyi Hsien Han (TAN); 71. S. Richardson (GB); 74. 68. S. G. Price (GB); 75. 68. M. Barry (GB); 74. 68. 143. V. Smith (GB); 72. 71. D. Steve (GB); 72. 71. D. MacIntyre (GB); 72. 71. P. Sander (GB); 71. 70. M. Calzecchini (USA); 72. 71. D. L. Parris (GB); 71. 70. M. H. Smith (GB); 72. 71. D. L. Parris (GB); 72. 71. R. Price (GB); 73. 72. Other British scores: 145. M. Macleod (GB); 145. J. M. O'Leary (GB); 73. 72. 148. I. Woosnam (GB); 75. 73. 148. C. P. Parry (Aus); 74. 75.

Allenby confirms his high promise

FROM MITCHELL PLATTS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN MELBOURNE

ROBERT Allenby provided further evidence of his growing maturity when, by compiling a second round of 68, he captured the halfway lead in the Johnnie Walker Classic on the Royal Melbourne course here yesterday.

His total of 134, ten under par, gave him a two-shot advantage over fellow-Australian, Mark Allen, who completed his round of 66 following a violent thunderstorm which halted play for 100 minutes. Colin Montgomerie, who had shared the lead with Allenby after the first round, fell back with a disappointing 73.

"I hope that is my bad round out of the way," Montgomerie said. "I certainly have no intention of shooting over par again and I still feel that I can win the title."

HOCKEY

Havant can call on Cross

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

EAST Grinstead's next two matches in the Pizza Express National League, at home today to Havant and away to Hounslow on December 12, will be important to their chances of winning the title as the leading contenders jostle for position at the top of the first division.

East Grinstead's middle line should be more secure by the return of their talented young wing half, Ravi Virdi, from injury today. Havant, level with East Grinstead and four points behind the leaders, Hounslow, may again have to omit the injured Currie but can now call on Cross, who was absent from their attack last week. When the teams met at the end of last season, Havant virtually secured the title with a 7-1 victory.

Although Duthie had recovered from injury last week to play for Southgate, second on goal difference to Hounslow, he is unavailable for today's trip to Welton, now looking more confident after a 2-1 win over Canterbury.

Stourport's captain and goalkeeper, Steve Taylor, who pulled a hamstring in the previous match, will have a fitness test before the away game against Slough, who could prove tough opponents. Stourport, in third place, are feeling the absence of their centre half, Mark Harradine, still under suspension. His position is filled by the Welsh international, Owen Jones, and Roberts available after recovering from injury. Stourport meet Southgate next weekend.

Except for the injured Hazell, Hounslow will be at full strength at home against St Albans, who were beaten 6-0 last week by East Grinstead. Teddington, who host Bournville, have a lot of ground to make up. So too have Old Loughtonians, who visit Surbiton.

Reading, five points clear at the top of the second division, are unlikely to be troubled by Old Kingstonians. Their nearest rivals, Indian Gymnas and Barford Tigers, should have few problems against moderate opposition.

FOOTBALL

50 unless stated

FA Cup

First-round replay

Salford v Marlow

Second round

Aston Villa v Coventry

Aston Villa v Port Vale

(all ticket)

Bolton v Rochdale

Brighton v Woking

Bury v Shrewsbury

Cheltenham v Bournemouth

(all ticket)

Exeter v Stockport

Gillingham v Colchester

Macclesfield v Stockport

(all ticket)

Marine v Stafford

(all ticket)

Reading v Leyton Orient (7.15)

Romford v Hull

Wigan v Bury

Yovil v Hartlepool

Premier League

Coventry v Ipswich

Cysters v Sheffield United

Leeds v Nottingham Forest

Middlesbrough v Blackburn

CPR v Oldham

Sheffield Wed v Aston Villa

Southampton v Arsenal

(all ticket)

Tottenham v Chelsea

(all ticket)

Bury v Bradford

Bristol Rovers v Luton

Cambridge Utd v Wolves

Cheltenham v Portmouth

(all ticket)

Grimby v Leicester

Hull v Coventry

Middlesbrough v Blackpool

Norwich v Wimbleton

Sheffield Wed v Aston Villa

Southampton v Arsenal

(all ticket)

Tottenham v Chelsea

(all ticket)

Bury v Bradford

Cysters v Sheffield United

Leeds v Nottingham Forest

(all ticket)

Middlesbrough v Blackpool

Norwich v Wimbleton

Sheffield Wed v Aston Villa

(all ticket)

Southampton v Chelsea

(all ticket)

Tottenham v Chelsea

(all ticket)

Bury v Bradford

Cysters v Sheffield United

Leeds v Nottingham Forest

(all ticket)

Middlesbrough v Blackpool

Norwich v Wimbleton

Sheffield Wed v Aston Villa

(all ticket)

Southampton v Chelsea

(all ticket)

Tottenham v Chelsea

(all ticket)

Bury v Bradford

Cysters v Sheffield United

Leeds v Nottingham Forest

(all ticket)

Middlesbrough v Blackpool

Norwich v Wimbleton

Sheffield Wed v Aston Villa

(all ticket)

Southampton v Chelsea

(all ticket)

Tottenham v Chelsea

(all ticket)

Bury v Bradford

Cysters v Sheffield United

Leeds v Nottingham Forest

(all ticket)

Middlesbrough v Blackpool

Norwich v Wimbleton

Sheffield Wed v Aston Villa

(all ticket)

Southampton v Chelsea

(all ticket)

Tottenham v Chelsea

(all ticket)

Bury v Bradford

Cysters v Sheffield United

Leeds v Nottingham Forest

(all ticket)

Middlesbrough v Blackpool

Norwich v Wimbleton

Sheffield Wed v Aston Villa

(all ticket)

Southampton v Chelsea

(all ticket)

Tottenham v Chelsea

(all ticket)

Bury v Bradford

Cysters v Sheffield United

Leeds v Nottingham Forest

(all ticket)

Middlesbrough v Blackpool

Norwich v Wimbleton

Sheffield Wed v Aston Villa

(all ticket)

Southampton v Chelsea

(all ticket)

Tottenham v Chelsea

(all ticket)

Bury v Bradford

Cysters v Sheffield United

Leeds v Nottingham Forest

(all ticket)

Middlesbrough v Blackpool

Norwich v Wimbleton

Sheffield Wed v Aston Villa

(all ticket)

Southampton v Chelsea

(all ticket)

Tottenham v Chelsea

(all ticket)

Bury v Bradford

Cysters v Sheffield United

Leeds v Nottingham Forest

(all ticket)

Middlesbrough v Blackpool

Norwich v Wimbleton

Sheffield Wed v Aston Villa

(all ticket)

Court of Appeal rejects Aga Khan's move over Aliysa



Aga Khan: appeal unlikely

By RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE Court of Appeal yesterday rejected the Aga Khan's latest attempt to challenge the Jockey Club's disqualification of his 1989 Oaks winner, Aliysa.

In a unanimous decision, the judges decided that the ruling by racing's governing body was not open to judicial review because such an appeal procedure was confined to public law decisions of governmental bodies and tribunals.

Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, readily accepted that the Jockey Club regulated a significant national activity and although its powers could be

described as public, "they are in no sense governmental".

"It would be contrary to sound and long-standing principle to extend the remedy of judicial review to such a case," he concluded.

The Jockey Club said the judgement clearly established the remedy for anybody participating in horse racing and aggrieved at something the Jockey Club may have done was to sue in the ordinary way.

"Judicial review is a remedy against government," a statement said. "The Jockey Club has never considered that it is doing the work of government in administering racing. All sporting authorities in this country will surely

welcome the fact that any remaining doubt in this matter has now been resolved."

The verdict is likely to bring to an end the long-running legal battle between one of the world's richest men and the Jockey Club, and will, it is hoped, pave the way for behind-the-scenes discussions which will enable the Aga to feel he can race again in Britain.

In theory, the Aga can seek leave to appeal to the House of Lords, but last night that appeared unlikely. Matthew McCloy, the Aga's solicitor, said after yesterday's hearing: "The Court of Appeal's hearing is done, it is unlikely leave would be granted."

"It might be the end of the road as far as courts are concerned.

That is a matter for His Highness. But it certainly is not the end of the road as far as resolving deficiencies in the drug-testing system and related disciplinary procedures. Those are matters that have to be addressed."

Aliysa was disqualified after 3-Hydroxycamphor (3-HC) was found in a post-race urine sample.

The Jockey Club's disciplinary committee concluded, on the basis of the work of the Horseracing Forensic Laboratory at Newmarket, the 3-HC came from camphor, a banned substance. The decision was made despite scientists hired by the Aga proving for the first time that 3-HC could come from borneol, which is found in feedstuffs and bedding.

The Aga removed his 90-strong string in December 1990 in protest at what he saw as deficiencies in Britain's drug-testing procedures. Nothing has been done to address his concerns, shared by other significant foreign owners.

After a spate of "camphor positives" there have been none of late, which, to put it mildly, appears strange.

Geoff Hubbard has withdrawn his legal action against the Jockey Club after the disqualification of horses ridden by Adrian Maguire in January, when he wrongly claimed a conditional jockey's allowance. The Suffolk owner lost four winners including three at the Sandown meeting of January 3. Nowell Watkins, Hubbard's solicitor, said last night that new procedures made the possibility of other conditional jockeys being caught out extremely small.

Sport and the law, page 5

England wing's prior commitment opens door for rivals

Tony Underwood may rue absence from North game

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE trial that begins today at Sudbury and Kirkstall winds by the ADT divisional championship, through the five nations' championship and busy B programme next year, into the England tour to North America in May.

It is the same in Scotland and Ireland, where the district and provincial championships continue. In Ireland, Connacht hope to build on that remarkable 28-9 victory over Leinster last weekend.

The two countries meet in an A international three days after Christmas and, like England, undertake development tours in the summer.

Whether the developing players will receive caps against the United States and Canada is undecided, but the possibility will act as an incentive today.

Some will be happy just to play, including Rob Andrew, who will captain London against the Midlands on his home ground at Wasps. It still ranks with Andrew, England's stand-off half in 50 internationals, that eligibility regulations prevent him resuming his competitive club career until February. What, he asks, would have been his

prospects of touring New Zealand with the British Isles next summer had his business move from France to England been in the new year?

He admits though, that a break now after ending the 1991-2 season in France in June and resuming in August is not welcome. Moreover, he is a wholehearted supporter of the divisional championship. "The slightly alien environment is what's about for players," Andrew said. "It

brings them into a situation similar to international rugby, with limited time to prepare and a requirement to adapt to different team members and playing divisions."

With the exception of the divisional champions, the Midlands' today's teams have slight modifications because of injuries. One notable absentee, Tony Underwood, needs every opportunity to ensure his England wing spot against the competition offered by his

brother, Rory, and Ian Hunter, but business has taken him to the Continent.

Whether the North, who play the South and South West at Kirkstall in Leeds, choose him next week may hinge on their success today. They have Rory Underwood on the left and Nigel Heslop, the 1991 grand slam wing who hopes to regain his international place, on the right.

The South West have two fine prospects at prop: Chris Clark, the Swansea university student who has made considerable advances with the Swansea club, and John Mallett, who replaces the injured Victor Ubogu. With the addition of John Hall, preferred to Mike Teague at flanker, the South Westwards will make an interesting study for the selectors.

So should the London pack, where Mark Russell and Richard Langhorn, better known for their back-row activities, have been named at lock.

The opening rounds of the county championship run concurrently with the divisional championship. Lancashire begin the defence of their title against Northumberland at Fylde.

Murphy sizes up task

By DAVID HANDS

GIVEN the appointment of Gerry Murphy as coach to Ireland's senior squad, the number of national coaches in the five nations' championship who were backs in their own playing days has now reached four. If Geoff Cooke, who has been such an influence on England's development, were included you could argue all five.

Should we then anticipate an explosion in exciting back play now that Murphy, once a full back, joins Ian McGeechan of Scotland (stand-off half or centre), Alan Davies of Wales (stand-off) and Pierre Barbezat of France (scrum half)? Not really, since so much of good back play revolves around confidence and fine timing, qualities the Welsh are slowly clawing back, while the Scots and the French and of which Ireland's team has been a good deal longer.

The allocation of the World Cup to South Africa, therefore, looks increasingly like an idea which was good at the time. But as 1995 telescopes into view, the path is fraught with difficulties.

The largest conundrum of all being South Africa's condition after the competition enters a month-long recess.

Outstanding bowling from Waqar Younis, Wasim Akram and Mushtaq Ahmed helped Pakistan restrict West Indies to 197 for nine from their 50 overs. Brian Lara was the top scorer with 59, a figure matched by Javed Miandad, who was at the helm during the closing stages of Pakistan's innings.

Akram won the man of the match award, following his four for 46 with an unbeaten 50 wickets, 50 overs.

Hooper, who damaged a calf muscle, also had to be a runner but he was fit enough

months. The competition is now larger, with a considerably larger organisational requirement. The World Cup tournament as a sporting event could be moved to another country at relatively short notice. If Geoff Cooke, who has been such an influence on England's development, were included you could argue all five.

This is as if, during the 1991 World Cup, travelling between Cardiff, Edinburgh and London could have been achieved only by aircraft. An influx of 15,000 visitors had to be catered for last year. Due to the South Africa's obvious tourist attractions, as much as the developing interest in the tournament itself, this figure will be surpassed in three years' time.

Therefore, if the IRFB continues to stand by its original decision, it could be embarking on a strategy of the highest risk. There are no guarantees. By the time it knows the election result in 1994, and if this proves adverse, it will be too late to change. The opposition to the venue by the Welsh Rugby Union, a body not best known for the sagacity with which it has conducted its recent affairs, now appears infinitely wise.

Members of the IRFB will be sadder men for not going to South Africa. But they may be wiser men who can be expected to sleep well at night. Their nerve is about to be tested.

MATCH-BY-MATCH GUIDE

Heineken League
First division
Aberavon v Pontypridd
Aberavon face Bucknall, a full back, at centre after a string of injuries and retirements. Mike Jones is back but Geoff Parry, David Jones, and Nicki McIntosh is required by Scottish Eccles, and give Cody his first League game of the season on the wing.

Cardiff v Swansea
Cardiff welcome back Rayer (full back) and Ring (centre) for their top-of-the-table meeting and make the new men available. They have had to beat Newport last week. They expect a capacity crowd of 14,000 for the west of Wales semi-final without Clement. Bell remains at full back, and MacCalla at prop while Gibbs and Robert Jones return.

Llanelli v Neath
Llanelli, lying fourth but with a game in



Rayer: back for Cardiff

hand over the top three clubs, will keep Rayer if they win. Moon returns at centre, and Parry at full back. Jones is unavailable for Neath because of a knee injury. Bird replaces him at centre and Kembury comes into the back row.

Macstee v Bridgend
This derby fixture was shared one apiece last season, but Bridgend will hope to end the 1991-2 series with a win over Neath over Mawdwr. Austin and Greenstock play their first League games in the front row. Lloyd returns to the back row and Wimble switches to the wing.

SW Police v Pontypridd
South Wales Police, bottom of the table, are in a bind. They have had to wait until next week when Wakeford, their lock, was ruled out for the season with ligament damage. Pontypridd bring back White and Hender to the wings but have a doubt about the latter's fitness. They have a groin strain and David Thomas from a



Something to celebrate: Aamir Sohail has just had Richardson caught off his bowling

Bowlers excel for Pakistan

Perth: Pakistan made a convincing start to the World Series Cup triangular tournament with a five-wicket victory over West Indies at the WACA ground here yesterday.

However, the win achieved for four balls to spare and was clouded by an injury to the opening batsman, Aamir Sohail, who strained a thigh muscle, an injury which makes him doubtful for the three matches remaining before the competition enters a month-long recess.

Murphy, 47, met Irish Rugby Football Union officials this week to discuss plans for the new year, a week after the union's executive committee confirmed his appointment as successor to Claran Fitzgerald, who resigned after Ireland's defeat in Australia in October.

Fitzgerald and Murphy coached Ireland in New Zealand last summer but Murphy also spent time in Australia studying development programmes. "We have to maximise our resources," he said. "We feel the schools in Ireland do relatively well, they can take on anyone. But we don't develop the kids enough and there is a fair amount of emigration. We need a rugby foundation."

Before that, though, Murphy's aim will be a win, any kind of win, to jolt the senior players from depression and restore self-esteem.

"We need to build a little bit of confidence but it will be difficult," Murphy said.

"There were a couple of good performances against the Australians by Munster and Connacht, and there have been some good All-Ireland League games, though they tend to be a bit negative. We just need to scrub a win from somewhere - 1-0 would be enough."

21 as he and Miandad knocked off the last 36 runs.

Aamir's injury means that the Pakistanis have only 13 of their 15-strong squad available for the next match, against Australia in Hobart on Thursday, for Asif Javed is still recovering from a stress fracture in his back, an injury which flared up in a practice match six days ago.

The doctor told me the thigh could be better tomorrow or it could take as long as 14 days," Aamir said. "We won't know just how bad it is for a couple of days but I definitely think I will miss the next game."

Aamir, who bowled eight overs during the West Indies tour, strained his thigh while attempting to run out Carl Hooper and had to bat with a runner during his brief stay at the crease.

Hooper, who damaged a calf muscle, also had to be a runner but he was fit enough

to bowl when Pakistan batted.

WEST INDIES
D.L.Haynes c Murphy b Richardson 1
P.V.Simmons c Rashid b Akram 23
R.B.Richardson c Wasim b Akram 23
B.C.Lara c/s b (Saved) Anjum 24

C.I.Hopper c Inzamam b Mushtaq 25
K.L.T.Arshad b Rashid b Akram 9
H.Jones c/s b Akram 10
R.B.Richardson c Wasim 16

C.E.L.Ambrose not out 15
A.C.Cummins c Javed b Wasim 15
K.Williams c/s b Akram 16
Extras (4, b, 3, w, 8, nb, 4) 187

TOTAL (9 wkt, 50 overs) 417

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-12, 2-12, 3-34, 4-19, 5-138, 6-140, 7-153, 8-178, 9-177.

BOWLING: Ambrose 9-2-23-0 (2 wkt, 10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4); Cummins 10-0-46-2 (5 wkt, 10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4); Hooper 10-0-46-2 (5 wkt, 10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4); Richardson 10-0-46-2 (5 wkt, 10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4); Wasim 10-0-46-2 (5 wkt, 10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4); Williams 10-0-46-2 (5 wkt, 10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4); Lara 10-0-46-2 (5 wkt, 10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4); Simmons 10-0-46-2 (5 wkt, 10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4); Haynes 10-0-46-2 (5 wkt, 10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4); Ambrose 10-0-46-2 (5 wkt, 10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4); Richardson 10-0-46-2 (5 wkt, 10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4); Williams 10-0-46-2 (5 wkt, 10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4); Lara 10-0-46-2 (5 wkt, 10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4); Simmons 10-0-46-2 (5 wkt, 10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4); Haynes 10-0-46-2 (5 wkt, 10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4); Ambrose 10-0-46-2 (5 wkt, 10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4); Richardson 10-0-46-2 (5 wkt, 10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4); Williams 10-0-46-2 (5 wkt, 10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4); Lara 10-0-46-2 (5 wkt, 10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4); Simmons 10-0-46-2 (5 wkt, 10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4); Haynes 10-0-46-2 (5 wkt, 10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4); Ambrose 10-0-46-2 (5 wkt, 10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4); Richardson 10-0-46-2 (5 wkt, 10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4); Williams 10-0-46-2 (5 wkt, 10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4); Lara 10-0-46-2 (5 wkt, 10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4); Simmons 10-0-46-2 (5 wkt, 10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4-10.4); Haynes 1

Saturday portrait: Eric Cantona, by Peter Ball

Football's rebel with applause rides on in search of his niche

With George Best, Denis Law, Mark Pearson, Johnny Morris and Norman Whiteside in their pantheon, Manchester United are used to forwards of great talent but often fiery personality. It remains to be seen whether their past experiences have prepared them for Eric Cantona, the *enfant terrible* of French football, who begins his United career tomorrow in the heated environment of a Manchester derby.

Cantona moved to United a week ago from Leeds, where he had quickly become a folk hero, bringing a 'Gallic' flair to the workaday team that had won the Football League championship. Notably, he left a heartbroken support behind him.

The move to Leeds's greatest rivals only exacerbated the dismay in West Yorkshire. But as well as sublime talent, which has led to him being dubbed 'the Gallic Gazz', he leaves a trail of discord in his wake from earlier days. United, with their history of welcoming maverick stars, have taken a gamble that they will provide the stage on which his undoubted talent can flourish.

As the minimal fee for his transfer, just over £1 million, suggests, it is a gamble. There are two areas of doubt: the footballer and the man. Nobody questions Cantona's ability, but there is a lingering doubt about his effectiveness, particularly in dealing with the demands English football makes of its forwards.

'After just two or three days in training, I knew we were witnessing a player of special natural talents,' Howard Wilkinson wrote in his recent autobiography, adding that because of the 'fundamental problem of playing styles', Cantona's chances of succeeding in English football were less than even.

A more damning conclusion came from Michel Platini, at the end of his spell as manager of France. Platini, who had restored Cantona to the national team, began to query his contribution when the chips were down, Cantona being a particular disappointment in the European championship.

Although Platini made no criticisms on the record, he reportedly told his confidants in the French football press: 'He is a big player

in small matches, but a small player in big matches.' Recent events suggest Wilkinson eventually came to a similar conclusion, although Alex Ferguson, his new manager, believed that Cantona was Leeds's best player in their European Cup matches with

shot on target as they went through the motions at half pace, but there were moments when Hughes and Cantona looked to be on the same wavelength, something which many of Hughes's previous partners searched for in vain over long periods.

But if the jury is still out on Cantona the footballer, there is hardly more than one opinion about Cantona the man, particularly in the conservative, often unimaginative world of professional football. *'Il est fou'*, was the immediate response of three French journalists who knew him from different periods during his career in France, a spell littered with rows, fights and suspensions.

With his dark, brooding looks, arrogance and volatile temperament, he is football's James Dean, or, as a Frenchman, perhaps an Alain Delon character, all jeans and black leather, riding moodily on a motorcycle through the streets of his native Marseille. In English football, players who admire Rambo are not unusual; players who admire Rimbaud and write poetry are likely to be regarded with slack-jawed incomprehension. Even in French football, they are likely to be looked at askance.

Cantona, though, sometimes looks as if he has dedicated himself to living out Rimbaud's surrealism and alienation. At only 26, he has had eight clubs (not counting his short period on trial with Sheffield Wednesday) in as many years. He began sedately enough, with Auxerre, returning there for a second spell after a brief sojourn at the second division club, Martigues. But from then on his troubles came thick and fast.

In 1988 there was a year-long suspension from the national team for describing Henri Michel as 'the manager, as a bag of excrement'; there were fights with team-mates at Montpellier and Auxerre; at Marseilles, he was suspended for throwing his shirt on the ground during a friendly.

Perhaps most famous of all was his experience at Nimes, his last club before he arrived in England. Suspended for a month for throwing the ball at the referee, his appearance before a French football association disciplinary panel has gone into popular folklore. As sentence was passed, Cantona passed his own judgment: 'Idiot.' Asked to repeat the point, he

skills and imagination make him far from the usual English target man, but playing him alongside Chapman, another six-footer, encouraged Leeds to follow 'route one'. That will not happen at United and Ferguson is convinced that his team's more cultured, creative style of play will suit Cantona better than Leeds's typically English style.

'We play differently to Leeds,' Ferguson said, leaving little doubt that he expected Cantona to find the United style to his liking. He is equally certain about the player's ability to add an extra dash to United's attack.

'He threatens space, you saw with that early break against Rangers, he goes for the gaps,' Ferguson said. 'The most important thing is that he has tremendous ability. I hope we can add to that, because at this club I think he has the potential to become a real giant.'

That we will see. There were encouraging signs even in Eusebio's testimonial match in the glorious Estadio de Luz on Tuesday. United did not have a single



RUGBY LEAGUE

Newlove lifts Rovers into cup contention

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

PAUL Newlove is something of a novelty these days: a second division player with a growing international pedigree.

Newlove's pace in the centre, instinct for being in the right place, and strength in the tackle marks his quality above that of most others in the second division, a point that will not be lost on St Helens in tomorrow's Regal Trophy second-round tie against Featherstone Rovers.

Newlove, winner of eight senior caps since becoming Great Britain's youngest representative in 1989, stands three tries short of a century in all rugby league, a remarkable feat for a player aged 21.

Newlove and Owen Simpson have scored 26 tries between them this season. 'I don't feel I lose out. We strive for a standard that would not be out of place in the first division. We can spread it wide, or keep it tight within the forwards,' Newlove said.

Under the innovative and uncompromising eye of their recent Australian appointment, Steve Martin, the for-

TV man who tucks into all-round diet

With *Ski Sunday* upon us once more, Jasper Rees examines what makes David Vine the solid prop of BBC sports' programmes

HIS hobby is bricklaying. If he has a catchphrase, it would be something not very catchy, like 'and look at that magnificent tuck!' Neither puppet nor stand-up impersonators ever lampoon him. David Vine has been anchoring and commenting at the BBC since 1966 and yet you can't quite pin down his appeal.

His heavily-spectacled face and burly shoulders are part of the national furniture, his distinctively burbled voice part of the soundtrack of Sunday afternoons in winter. Commuting between the fastest and slowest athletic pursuits known to man, stopping off in between at the smartest, he has done his bit to turn some sports still regarded as small in journalism into big ratings-pullers in television. So he must have something.

Whatever it is, the BBC liked it from the start. Two producers were scouring the country in search of someone to host the nascent BBC 2's *Sports Scene*. They arrived in Plymouth, 'the last port of call', says their eventual quarry, whom they found fronting and producing a sports programme for Westward TV, the region's commercial station. Because BBC 2 could not be received in the southwest, he combined both jobs until a *Daily*

Mail critic rumbled the moonlighter; from then on, he came under Auntie's wing.

'He has terrific professionalism,' Jim Reside, executive producer of *Ski Sunday*, says. 'In circumstances which most others would find untenable, he will still deliver an interview or a piece to camera or commentary. If we've only got time for one take, you'll get what you want in one take.'

'He's got a depth to his voice,' like David Coleman and Alan Weeks and Harry Carpenter and all the other great voices of sport the BBC has, he's very articulate.

'Skiing can be quite boring. If the winner comes from No. 1, David Vine has to find 20 different ways of saying the same thing when the other 19 come down.'

There is a world of difference between the green haze at the Guild Hall, Preston, and the men's downhill at Val d'Isere, but Vine was competing at the one until late on Sunday night, and will be commenting at the other

this weekend. Throw in the show jumping, the Olympic weightlifting and the Commonwealth bowls and for his age — he was born in 1935 — he qualifies as the hardest working broadcaster at BBC Sport. One winter he flew 31 times. In the 1970s, he was, if anything, even more ubiquitous. There was scarcely an outside broadcast which didn't have Vine out in front of it — *Superstars*, *Jew Sans*



Vine: elderly fan base

Frontières, the *Eurovision Song Contest* and *Miss World*, not to mention *Grandstand*, *Quizball* and *A Question of Sport*. He could turn his hand to anything — 'it's the same sort of technique whether you are talking about a skier coming down a mountain or a bit of 36-24-38 walking down a platform' — is his distinctly non-politically correct claim, though he bristles at the suggestion that one or two sports he commentates on are not necessarily areas of expertise. 'I used to play bowls,' he says with a hint of pride, which is more than can be said for his son on skis or in the saddle.

'How good is Harry Carpenter fighting Frank Bruno?' is his stock rejoinder. 'I have ridden, but very little. I have skied, but I don't ski. What's the point? You could go out there and sod's law you turn an ankle on the first day.'

Perhaps his appeal has something to do with the sports with which he is associated. They are all safe, even skiing, though physically dangerous. There is a gentlemanly sport. There is no bodily contact, little money-grubbing and, depending on your view of what Clive James once called the downhills' 'multi-coloured condoms',

participants from all three sports are presentably attired. Vine says he has a big fan base among the nation's grandmothers. Perhaps they see in this safety-first nor-

skier a kindred spirit.

'People have got rather fed up with the aggro in sport,' he says, and it is with them that he has found his niche. In the cause of right thinking and good manners, he can turn on the aggro himself. He once had the temerity to ask John McEnroe, who after his pits-of-the-world explosion at Wimbledon only begrudgingly agreed to a BBC interview. 'What right do you have to call anyone an incompetent for decency,' McEnroe said, he'd never talk to Vine again.

In fact, there is one man who hangs on David Vine's every word at the beginning of the *Ski Sunday* series. 'The head of the Austrian tourist board listens with bated breath at Val d'Isere. If I say it's good, he knows they are going to get a great season with skiers coming in from England. If I say it's terrible, I can kill his business. It's a nice position to be in.'

Almost as nice as being in the Alps every weekend, where you will find him again this winter, pointing out that magnificence.

The Khans eliminate the Britons

Jahangir Khan, the defending champion, will face Jansher Khan, the world champion, in the final of the Pakistan squash tournament, after sweeping aside their British opponents in Karachi yesterday.

Jahangir scored a straight games victory over Simon Parke 15-8, 15-7, 15-10, but Jansher surprisingly dropped the first game before demolishing Peter Marshall 12-15, 15-12, 15-6, 15-5.

Upwardly mobile

Ice Skating: Powerful free dancing lifted the British title holders, Lisa and John Dunn, three places to a sixth position in the world junior championships in Seoul, won by the Russians, Svirina and Sakhnovsky, yesterday. They were thirteenth last year.

Jones's despair

Rugby league: Mark Jones, the Hull prop, yesterday lost all hope of playing for Wales against France in Perpignan tomorrow week when a disciplinary committee in Leeds rejected his appeal against a six-match ban.

Boone advances

Rackets: Willie Boone, the No. 2 seed, reached the semi-finals of the Lacoste British amateur championship with a victory by 15-2, 15-0, 15-10 against Guy Barker.

Frankfurt again

Tennis: The international federation confirmed in London yesterday that the 1994 Federation Cup will be played in Frankfurt for the third consecutive year.

Treasurer leaves

Rugby union: Glamorgan Griffiths has resigned as treasurer of the Welsh RU, claiming that he had been placed in an intolerable position in so far as being able to effectively execute my duties and responsibilities'.

ATHLETICS

Harder task for Oxford

FROM DAVID POWELL
IN VAL D'ISERE

A SNOWSTORM blew away £14,000 in hard-earned prize money which AJ Kitt deserved yesterday for his skill and courage.

Kitt, a New Yorker, lost hold of the winner's cheque when the first World Cup downhill of the season was called off because only a quarter of the field had skied before the weather deteriorated and the risk factor became too high.

All the best downhills had gone, including the 15 seeds, so it was reasonable to assume that Kitt would have won. But

he was denied what would have been only his second World Cup win, his first having come here last year.

Even before the first skiers had started, there were doubts over whether to stage the race after heavy overnight snow. But the start was lowered, the course shortened, and the go-ahead given. Kitt timed 1 min 52.17sec ahead of the World Cup downhill champion, Franz Heinzer, of Switzerland, who took 1 min 52.45sec.

Hardly had Kitt had time to say that he was 'glad we competed' — Val d'Isere is known for missing races because the weather comes

in — than a halt was called. Officials had been right, he said, to start the competition. 'The conditions were a little dangerous but that is OK,' Kitt said. 'Downhill is supposed to be dangerous.'

However, Kitt had no complaints at the jury's decision to cancel after only 22 of the 85 competitors had skied.

There is no firm rule governing how many skiers must complete the course for a result to stand but, as a general principle, that will happen when the jury judges there are no skiers remaining who are likely to score World Cup points.

His points and prize-money

may be lost but at least Kitt, aged 24, had the chance to prove he is competitive after tearing ankle ligaments while playing basketball three weeks ago. He is unable to walk comfortably but, once inside his ski boot, the injury hardly notices.

'I cannot run and I cannot jump, but it does not hurt when I am skiing,' Kitt said.

Because the starting point was lowered, top speeds were slower than the most daring downhills would like. But the need for caution was emphasised when Hansjorg Taucher, of Germany, came perilously close to crashing.

Taking a right turn, his left

ski brushed the safety netting: another inch off line and he may have been seriously hurt. The race will not be rescheduled for here, even though there are two days in the World Cup programme to run.

The super giant slalom is due to be held today and the slalom tomorrow. It is possible that Val d'Isere's lost downhills will be added to the Garmisch-Partenkirchen programme early in January.

Liverpool defeat

AMERICAN FOOTBALL
BASSETT 34

1992

1993

1994

1995

1996

1997

1998

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2000

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2003

2004

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2006

2007

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2009

2010

2011

2012

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2018

2019

2020

2021

2022

2023

2024

SPORT

SATURDAY DECEMBER 5 1992

RACING 28
AGA KHAN LOSES HIS APPEAL OVER ALIYSA

117th Manchester derby may start without United's new £1.2m signing

Ferguson undecided over Cantona

By LOUISE TAYLOR

WILL he play or won't he? Even Alex Ferguson is not sure whether to include Eric Cantona from the start of the 117th Manchester derby at Old Trafford tomorrow or seat him on the substitutes' bench. The Manchester United manager, who signed Cantona from Leeds United for £1.2 million last week, said yesterday: "I think I have made up my mind what to do about Cantona but I'll keep tossing it over in my mind until Sunday."

Provided Ferguson sticks to plan A, it is expected that Mark Hughes and Brian McClair will be in attacking tandem with Cantona on the sidelines. If that frustrates the red segments of Old Trafford, it will not stand in the way of some raucous celebrations should United beat City.

This morning, United stand sixth in the Premier League, nine points adrift of Norwich City, the leaders, while Peter Reid's Manchester City are eighth, two points further back.

Ferguson, though, is planning to take over at the top. "We are not out of the championship race by any means," he said. "Only Norwich have maintained any degree of consistency while the other sides like ourselves, have all had their ups and downs."

Ferguson was angry at revived reports that Bryan Robson, his captain, was poised to become manager of Sunderland. He dismissed them as "rubbish". Ferguson said that rather than returning to his native North-East, where he was brought up as a Newcastle United supporter, Robson, who has started just four matches this season, would be remaining at Old Trafford to lead United's latest title challenge.

The former England captain is now 35, his contract runs out at the end of the season and he remains prone to injuries, but, like Ferguson, he is still committed to winning a championship that has eluded his club for 26 years.

A late fitness test permitting, Robson hopes to start in front of the television cameras tomorrow, and Ferguson said: "I have waited a long time to get Bryan Robson and Lee Sharpe back in the side and they make a hell of a difference. They are a very valuable duo to us. Many teams have key areas and they are part of ours. Bryan controls the shape of the side and he has so much



Splendid isolation: Blake, the Kingstonian goalkeeper who was struck by a coin in the last match, stands alone against Peterborough yesterday

	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Newcastle	17	11	3	3	32	36
Sheffield United	17	9	2	6	22	29
Arsenal	17	8	4	5	26	28
Aston Villa	17	7	4	6	26	18
Chelsea	17	8	4	5	24	19
Man Utd	17	7	6	4	18	12
SPURS	17	7	5	5	24	12
Man City	17	7	5	5	24	12
Liverpool	17	7	4	6	30	24
Ipswich	17	5	10	2	24	25
Coventry	17	6	5	6	21	19
Tottenham	17	5	6	6	22	22
Leeds	17	5	6	6	22	21
Middlesbrough	17	5	6	6	27	21
Sheff Wed	17	4	8	5	19	20
Shrewsbury	17	4	8	5	19	18
Shrewsbury	17	4	8	5	19	18
Easton	17	4	8	5	19	18
Wimbledon	17	3	8	6	19	23
C Palace	17	1	9	7	20	32
Nottingham	17	2	5	10	13	27
Nottingham	17	2	5	10	13	27

experience, while Lee has such a willingness to attack goal he generates and encourages a more positive attitude throughout. If Bryan and Lee remain fit we have a great chance of winning the championship.

"My team is looking good at the moment and our aim is a

simple one — to string together a few victories in the league and to keep in touch with the pack above us."

As long as Brightwell is passed fit, Reid hopes to name a full-strength side and make amends for the unscheduled 1-0 defeat at home to Tottenham Hotspur last week. "I was very disappointed both with our form and our performance during the course of last week's defeat, which ended a run of four straight wins," Reid said. "Having said that, I must say that my players have been most impressive in training all week, and I am hopeful that they have got that poor result out of their systems."

Cantona can guarantee himself a place in the hearts of United supporters with a goal. To do that he must not only appear on the pitch, but also outwit a City defence including, in Keith Curle and Terry Phelan, Britain's costliest defenders.

Saturday portrait, page 30

Sterling ends farce fittingly

Peterborough United 1
Kingstonian 0

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

THE FA Cup evokes images of drama, passion, joy and despair. Tiny grounds overflowing with expectation; giant-killing in the air; Kingstonian bowed out at London Road yesterday amid eerie echoes and deserted terraces. It was no way to go.

Nobody wanted a replay of the first-round replay, which ended 9-1 to Peterborough but was erased by the Football Association after Adrian Blake, the Kingstonian goalkeeper, had been struck by a coin and carted off to hospital with the score 3-0.

A behind-closed-doors re-match was ordered, hence the 100-strong gathering of officials, media and invitation-only

spectators on a cold, crisp afternoon in Cambridgeshire. "It was a farce. I'm still bitterly disappointed with the FA," Chris Kelly, the Kingstonian manager, said.

Kelly said that, at most, a neutral venue should have been used. The powers-that-be decreed otherwise and the Kingstonian players, sixteen in the Diadora League premier division, had to beg, steal and borrow time off.

Adie Cowler, the captain, snatched barely an hour's sleep after a night sorting out his interior design business; Andy Parr worked late painting and decorating; Dave Kempton forfeited £100 to take a day off selling cheese.

"I just want to forget the whole episode," Cowler said. "If this is what professional football is all about, I'm glad I'm not good enough."

Kingstonian's preparations

included breakfast at Fat Boys Cafe and a spell of Space Invaders. It was nothing to the strange scenario ahead.

Peterborough, tenth in the first division, did their best. Kingstonian scrapped like a non-League side should. Every expletive could be heard; every robust challenge reverberated round the rafters.

Bizarre circumstances cried out for a bizarre ending and it arrived in the 68th minute.

Cooper's cross flicked off Kempton and hit Sterling full in the face before going in. "I don't know what any of us were doing here," Chris Turner, the Peterborough manager, said. His words, not for the first time, echoed true.

PETERBOROUGH UNITED: 1. Bennett; D. Bradshaw, R. Robson, M. Howell, D. Howarth, P. Jackson, A. Jackson, M. Eaton, G. Cooper, A. Cook, A. Philpott, M. Eaton, KINGSTONIAN: 1. Blake; J. Finch, A. Cowler, S. Evans, D. Broderick, D. Kempton, D. Hargreaves, P. Jackson, R. Cherry, F. Vines, R. Brathwaite, A. Par, R. Biggar.

England faces political battle for World Cup

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THE fragile unity of international cricket is once more threatened with divisions as the contest to stage the next World Cup enters a complex political, and potentially chaotic voting phase.

England's bid, the details of which were announced yesterday, commits £5 million to their vision of a five-week tournament in May and June of 1995. It is undoubtedly an impressive proposal, but it will not necessarily win the way.

The joint bid from India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka is believed to be worth slightly less as an overall package, but sets out to woo the support of the minor cricketing countries by promising a high input to the Associate Members Trophy, from which three teams will qualify for the World Cup.

The sub-continent is playing a canny political game, something which was always likely once this most prestigious of cricketing events had been put out to tender, rather than being awarded on a rota basis as England claimed was correct. Money, as ever, will hold the greatest sway, but political pressures will also be brought to bear in coming weeks, and there is no guarantee of a decisive or amicable resolution before next summer.

A special meeting of the International Cricket Council (ICC) has been scheduled for February 2 in London. There is talk of avoiding the expense by taking a postal vote, but this is surely wishful thinking. Cricket has never before held an auction of this nature or magnitude, and the existing voting procedures look dangerously outdated.

Two-thirds of the nine full members are needed for a majority decision, but neither bidder seems likely to achieve this. The key is held by the African nations; if both South Africa and Zimbabwe vote for England, they would decide the issue, but Zimbabwe have already intimated they will support the sub-continent, while South Africa has yet to make its position known.

The associate members, who each have one vote against the full members' two, further complicate any prognosis. But the most intriguing aspect is that the ICC constitution still contains scope for the two foundation members, England and Australia, and reflect the growth of the event and its attraction as a television spectacle.



Insole: optimistic

Entry (winning)

Here is the latest limerick, and it wins this week's bottle of ambrosial Calem Coopers 1978 port. It goes to Peter Emmens for this effort of tortured syntax:

*This country expects Gascoigne (Paul),
That wizard of fine control (ball),
To win, handed-single,
The World Cup for England,
And that looks a real order (all).*

I have still more bottles of nectar to give away, so keep the limericks coming. Show my postman no mercy.

wrong with Schott, baseball, and, best of all, America. Schott has defended herself vigorously and said with wonderful ambiguity: "I don't think good blacks like this."

More good news about the way the country has united behind the Manchester bid for the 2000 Olympics. Rangers have refused to allow Ibrox to be used for the early rounds of the Olympic football tournament.

Retaliation from the top

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THE International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) yesterday met fire with fire and said that it might seek damages for libel against Butch Reynolds, the 400 metre world record-holder who on Thursday was awarded \$27.3 million (about £18 million) in damages against the IAAF.

A United States District Court in Columbus, Ohio, ruled that the world governing body of athletics should pay \$6.8 million to Reynolds for loss of earnings during his two-year suspension for drug abuse and \$20.5 million in punitive damages. The federation said that the court did not have jurisdiction over it and repeated its stance yesterday. "This judgment is worthless," an IAAF statement said.

The same statement went on not only to threaten action against Reynolds for alleged libel but to suggest that it may impose a further suspension. Reynolds is already under an extended ban, the IAAF having added five months to his

original two-year suspension, for drug abuse in 1990. The extended ban is due to end on December 31 and Reynolds is planning to race indoors in New York in February.

Yesterday's IAAF statement added: "The IAAF council will consider the possibility of commencing proceedings against Mr. Reynolds for libel and taking further disciplinary action under IAAF rules."

The move, the statement said, would be to "defend the honour and integrity of its members, accredited laboratories, arbitration panel members, medical committees and doping commission members and officials." The next IAAF council meeting is planned for Jakarta in January.

Reynolds's lawyers also took an attacking stance and threatened to target IAAF sponsors. "It will be a long process but if necessary, we will take it to the Olympic Games in 1996," Mimi Dane, an attorney for Reynolds, said.

She added that they would seek to sequester money owed to the IAAF by American sponsors.

A day in the life of a legend

forth Worth: Out here, a new sporting hero has broken from cover. His name is Neale Smith, and he comes from Bega, in New South Wales, Australia. He seems to be one of those people who is so extraordinarily talented at absolutely everything that he never made his mark at one single thing.

He is a rather long-in-the-tooth 27. He is in the United States completing his education, and has done a masters degree in sports psychology. And he has just qualified for the \$70 million United States golf tour, finishing joint first in the PGA qualifying tournament at Woodlands Country Club in Houston.

It turns out that such a fear is pretty routine for Smith. In one 24-hour period back in Bega — said to be the Eastbourne of New South Wales — he played a three-under-par

round in his golf club's monthly medal tournament; scored a century in first-grade cricket;

scored 49 of the 54 points recorded by his local basketball team, and

cleared seven feet in the high jump at an athletics meeting.

Smith has already won a Pacific Games gold medal for the high jump (clearing 2.32m) and played junior rugby league for New South Wales while still at primary school. He is a sporting legend — in Bega, if nowhere else.

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of horsemanship and equine agility. Ronnie Rice is leading as I write. He said of his session with Sugar Ray Lena: "They left me decent cows and he was dead on. His eye appeal and his physical ability are his strong points. As far as ability, there's nothing he can't do." There are times when America feels about as accessible as the Russian Orthodox church.

Horse sense
The big event here is not the Davis Cup final at all, but the National Cutting Horse Association World Final. In an audience of wall-to-wall boots below, horses with names like Ramblin' Ricky Rev, Little Bitty Darlin' and Lil' Sugar Snap dance in front of cows in a glorious display

of horsemanship and equine agility. Ronnie Rice is leading as I write. He said of his session with Sugar Ray Lena: "They left me decent cows and he was dead on. His eye appeal and his physical ability are his strong points. As far as ability, there's nothing he can't do." There are times when America feels about as accessible as the Russian Orthodox church.

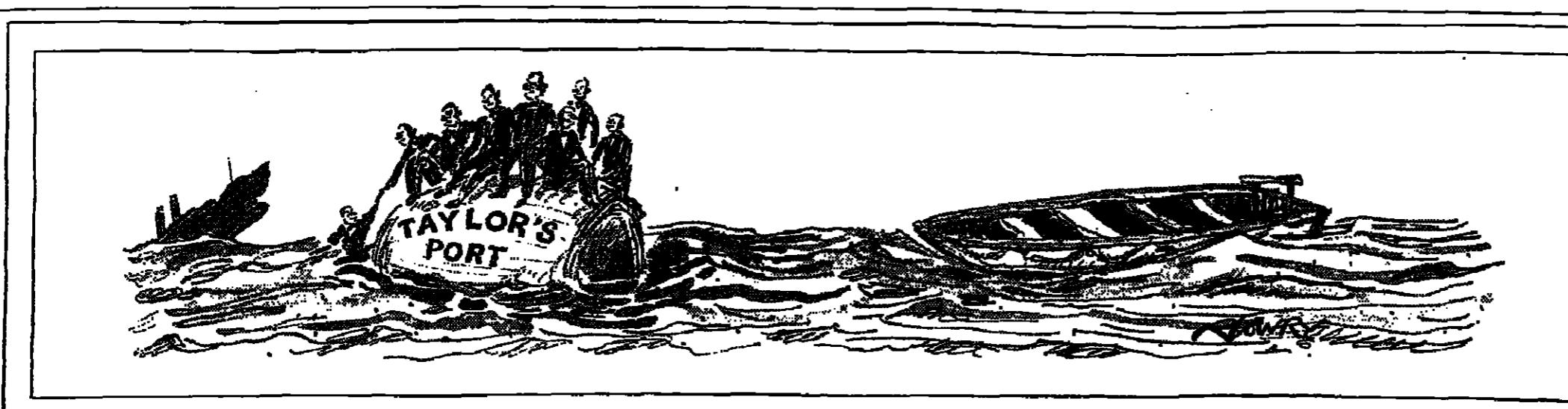
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TAYLOR'S PORT
BEST taken Seriously

ACING
faces
battle
1 Cup



HO! HO! HO!

Get in the mood
for Christmas

See inside



ALAN COREN

Feathers fly in
Cricklewood

Page 8



WHAT TO WEAR

Party faithful
twentysomethings

Page 10

CAITLIN
MORAN ON
REVOLUTION
Page 18

WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY DECEMBER 5 1992

3

High spirits and happy souls

Traditional Anglicanism may be in decline, says Matthew d'Ancona, but spirituality is finding other expression

Tomorrow the chapel of Buckingham Palace will resound to sung Eucharist, as a few miles away, believers at Hampton Court listen to the address of Dr David Hope, Bishop of London and stalwart opponent of female ordination.

In Merseyside, home-based retreatants attached to the Centre of Ignatian Spirituality will continue their pursuit of the centuries-old spiritual path set down by the founder of the Jesuits, while further south, throng of young families enjoys the lively evangelical services at St Thomas Crook's Church in Sheffield.

Heading southwest, the eight-man community at the Barn, in Totnes, Devon, will be completing Buddhist meditation exercises about the same time, before a busy day's work in harmony with the land. Who said we live in a spiritless land?

To go in search of British spirituality is a curious task. We might begin by examining the state of the Church of England — usually the first crystal ball into which the optimists and the doom-mongers peer to test the strength of the nation's soul.

For Fr Philip Ursell, principal of Oxford's traditionalist seminary, Pusey House, there is little to be cheerful about in the spiritual state of the nation. "I wonder if British spirituality really exists now. It's become confused with a sort of English sentimentalism — being nice to animals and helping old ladies across the road."

Defenders of the church would say that the General Synod's decision to admit women to the priesthood last month was an act of clarity and conviction which will fill the pews once more. But Fr Ursell believes that such flaunting of tradition is detrimental to spirituality.

There's a decline in knowledge of Common Prayer, the Coverdale translations of the Psalms and the authorised version of the Bible," he says. "It's something that's happened since the war: pantheistic religion in school assemblies, the departure of children from Sunday schools. For me, the decline of the Prayer Book is the decline of the English religion."

Attendances at ordinary Sunday services fell again in 1990 by 1 per cent, while membership in the



Rise and rejoice: at the Celestial Church of Christ in Peckham, south London, which is Nigerian in origin, worship is spontaneous, vigorous and fun

Royal Family", a probe into the "heresy" of television wrestling, and a fierce attack on the "blatant sin of Madonna" vie for the attention of the reader. This is designer religion with a vengeance.

Thatcherism and its legacy seem to have played a part in defining the shape of Britain's spirituality today. Our individualistic society has spawned an individualistic credo: a desire to find a custom-built approach to self-discovery. This is epitomised by the remarkable growth in popularity of the retreat — among all faiths.

On the other hand, the evangelical explosion has been explained as a mass psychic response to the recessionary pinch, a quest for new certainties to replace the "greed is good" mantra of the 1980s. This seems a bit glib, as the evangelicals themselves point out. David Bebbington, a reader in history at Stirling University and author of *Evangelicalism in Modern Britain*, says that the expansion of

higher education has produced a

generation of intelligent, highly educated believers, inclined to evangelical forms of spirituality.

Does education really lead to faith? The reverse has often been true, when science and sophisticated cynicism have undermined religious belief. But in recent years, says Mr Bebbington, the evangelical movement has been the most conspicuous beneficiary of "a strong, subterranean sympathy for spirituality" in this country.

Support for spiritual practices that look not to a God, but within for their personal salvation — most notably Buddhism — has also been encouraged by the 1980s me-style climate. Kulananda of the Western Buddhist Order believes "Buddhism allows people to keep responsibility for their own spiritual lives while offering practical methods, such as meditation, for developing their faith."

A further development from the ethos of the me-generation is the

growing appeal of the New Age. Its reverence of the earth goddess and natural cycles stops little short of worship. Moreover, the "peace and harmony with nature" practices of the New Age traveller have many echoes of rural semi-Pagan ritual.

To my eyes the real adherents of the New Age — crystals, aromatherapy, Gaia, past-life therapy et al. — are the thirtysomethings of the South East who got rich under Thatcher, but hanker after the non-specific spirituality of the 1960s.

Rabbi Julia Neuberger believes British spirituality is rooted in simple aesthetic appreciation (she cites the new popularity of classical music) and a sense of community-national character that struck her first as a rabbinic student. "I would point to what goes on in hospices. Living and working with the ill and their families, there is a sense that the spiritual side is as important as the material."

This near-equation of spirituality and benevolence sounds alarmingly similar to what Fr Ursell called

"English sentimentality". But perhaps that is the point. Good things rarely submit to easy definition. It might be said that the essence of British spirituality combines principled generosity with sheer vagueness. The playwright Robert Bolt called it "our Island genius for compromise"; most apily, Philip Larkin called it "awkward reverence".

Whatever it is, tomorrow, in the ante-chapel at Magdalen College, Oxford, it will be visible in the faces of those visitors gazing up at the extraordinary Leonardo *Last Supper*, now on loan from the Royal Academy. The painting is a truly startling sight, almost embarrassingly affecting. Some of the visitors will not have stepped inside a church this year. But they may spot a look of awe in each other's eyes; and reflect that not all the spirits have flown from this odd, irreverent land.

● "At Your Service", a new series on places of worship around Britain, starts today on page 9.

THE FAITHFUL

Anglicans	1,838,659
Roman Catholics	1,945,626
Baptists	241,842
Orthodox	265,258
Presbyterians	1,291,672
Other protestants	123,677
Independent churches	408,999
Methodists	483,387
Afro-Caribbean churches	69,658
Buddhists	27,500
Hindus	140,000
International Society for Krishna Consciousness	50,000
Jews	108,400
Muslims	990,000
Sikhs	390,000

Source: UK Christian Handbook 1992/3 (figures relate to 1991 survey)

It's a funny thing the way humans seem unable to learn from their mistakes. Even the lowliest of invertebrates has a modicum of intelligence. Enough to enable worms, for example, to learn eventually to stop turning left, where they receive an electric shock, in favour of the right turn, which is neutral.

This topic came up last Sunday when we finished lunch at 3.45pm and found, as we looked out at the encircling gloom, that we had left it too late to go for a walk. It had been dark at 4.30 for a number of weeks now, but each one of the five adults present had promoted the conditions whereby lunch started late and inevitably finished late, despite the fact that we had all desperately wanted to go for a walk.

We had had to buy enough wine from Waitrose on Friday night, so that when we ran out on Sunday we were forced to go to the local pub and pay £2.50 more a bottle for bad wine than we would have paid for good from the

All downhill on the learning curve

Why are sensible people unable to benefit from experience?



WEEKEND
VOICE

MARY
KILLEN

has completely knocked me out. I always forget how tiring drinking at lunchtime is."

Very generously, a neighbour had invited us all to lunch on Saturday. It was extremely kind of her. Regrettably, she put a "stay-cool handle" saucepan containing

the lunch into the Aga instead of on top of it. She burnt her hand when she took it out, not once, but four times. Then her husband — who wrestled her out of the way in irritation — put on an oven glove and failed to remember that the thumb had been burnt through, so he burnt his own thumb and screamed with pain. "I keep meaning to throw that glove away," said

Provocatively, I raised the subject of people being unable to learn from their mistakes. My husband volunteered the information that he always has his bath too hot, leaving himself feeling "weak and heart-attack every evening".

another time-consuming trip into our local market town.

I remember once visiting a friend named Liza, who lived in a balcony flat in Chelsea. She had been given a present of a rubber plant. "Shall I let it die inside or out on the balcony?" she asked. Clearly, she had learnt from experience, and was only too happy to let me take it away.

Try to avoid Sunday Night Syndrome if you can help it. I suffered from it desperately last weekend. Prepare yourself for the fact that you are likely to go down with a black depression if you drink and over-eat at Sunday lunch and have filled your consciousness with tales of atrocities garnered by the newspapers from all corners of the globe. Make an appointment with your cinema tomorrow night. Go and see a film called *Strictly Ballroom*. Ride out the Sunday Night Syndrome of being faced with the evidence of your own mistakes by this week's planning ahead.

We all know that some people tend to have variations of the same destructive love affair with a sequence of different partners, but somehow this seems more understandable than the person who eats kippers on a regular basis, each time managing to sublimate the experience of "kipper burping" until the next time.

We buy books we are never going to read and fail to fill up with enough petrol, or buy enough stamps at the post office, when we know that failure to do so will mean

COOO!

It's our 26 year old baby.

A Limited Edition miniature, no less, to be won answering a few potty questions on the back of The Macallan 10 Year Old Malt Whisky's Christmas carton.

To say it's like mother's milk could be seriously to underestimate the sherry cask in which it has *SLUMBERED SINCE 1966*. This is *voluptuous stuff* and — whether you give or keep the bottle of 10 Year Old (no mean mouthful itself) — our baby will add a touch of *private jubilation* long after the festive season is over.

Cootchee?

The Macallan. The Malt.

THEATRE

LONDON

ASSASSINS: Sondheim's sharp and successful musical explores the impulse that drives no-hopers to kill American Presidents. Donmar Warehouse, Earls Court Street, WC2 (071-987 1150). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 8pm.

CAROUSEL: Michael Hayden in Nicholas Hytner's large-scale production of the Rodgers & Hammerstein fairground musical which ran for over a year in the Fifteen. National (Lyttleton), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Previews every 7.30pm; opens Dec 14, 7pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, 7pm; then in repertory.

CYRANO DE BERGERAC: Robert Lindsay in the title role as Rostand's long-nosed, long-distance lover. Directed by Elijah Moshinsky. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800). Previews every 7.30pm; opens Dec 14, 7pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, 7pm.

HAY FEVER: Very funny performances (not always where you expect) in Coward's excellent comedy. Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-857 1151). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats, Thurs, Sat, 3pm.

THE GIFT OF THE GORGON: Peter Hall directs Judi Dench and Michael Pennington in Peter Shaffer's latest: revenge and/or justice in modern times, with an echo of ancient Greece. The Pit, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8891). Previews tonight, Wed-next Sat, 7.15pm, mats Thurs, next Sat, 2pm; opens Dec 16.



Anguished: Barrie Rutter as the king in *Richard III*

IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY: Larks in the hospital common room; matron outraged; doctors flummoxed. Ray Cooney farce with lots of laughs. Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (071-839 4401). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mats Thurs, Sun, 5pm.

JUNE MCGOWAN: Naive songstress conquers Tin Pan Alley. Delightful comedy by Ring Lardner and George S. Kaufman. Excellent cast led by Adam Godley and Frank Lazarus.

Vaudeville, The Strand, WC2 (071-836 9987). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 3pm.

MISERY: Sharon Gless (former cop *Cagney*) unerves Bill Paterson in stage version of the Stephen King thriller. Criterion, Piccadilly Circus, W1 (071-839 4488). Previews from Thurs, 8pm open, Dec 17, 7pm; then Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 7pm, Sun, 4pm.

NO MAN'S LAND: Spellbinding journey into Pinterland with Harold himself and Paul Edamson as

the two stalking combatants. Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (071-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm.

OUR SONG: Peter O'Toole in Keith Waterhouse's play about a menopausal male's infatuation with a young woman. Neatly done though we only hear the man's point of view.

Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5070). Mon-Fri, 8.15pm, Sat, 6pm and 8.45pm.

A PENNY FOR A SONG: A Daset household of eccentrics prepare to defend their shores from Napoleon's invasion fleet. John Whittaker's engaging comedy. Orange Tree, Clarence Street, Richmond (081-940 3632). Preview tonight, 7.45pm; opens Mon, 7.45pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat (from Dec 12), 4pm.

RICHARD III: Barrie Rutter takes the lead and directs this acclaimed Northern Broadsides production (with the battle scene as a clog dance). Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, Hammersmith, W6 (071-748 3954). Preview Tues, 7.45pm; opens Wed, 7.45pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 3.30pm.

STAGES: Haunting performance by Alan Bates as the washed-up artist in David Storey's elegy for lost times and places. Lindsay Anderson directs.

National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Tonight, Mon-Wed, 8pm, mats today, Wed, 4pm.

THREE BIRDS ALIGHTING ON A FIELD: Harriet Walter perfect again in revival of this subtle, comic state-of-the-nation play, set in a world of shifting values and plummeting art-prices. Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (071-730 1745). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm, 150mins.

TRAVELS WITH MY MUM: Simon Cadell, John Wells, Richard Kane, Christopher Geare play all 26 parts, male and female, in Giles Havergal's marvellous adaptation of Graham Greene's novel. Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1116). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm, mats Wed, Sat, 3pm.

TRELLAWNY OF THE "WELLS": Sarah Brightman and Michael Hordern head a terrific cast about theatre folk in mid-Victorian London. Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (071-867-1045). Preview tonight, 7.30pm; opens Mon, 7pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm.

REGIONAL:

BOLTON: Bob Carlton's updated pantom, Aladdin Bolton (goddit) packed with Sixties hits.

Otagon, Howell Croft South (0204-20661). Opens tonight, 7.30pm; then at various times daily until Jan 16.

LEEDS: *Granny and the Gorilla*, or "The Great Age Escape": described as a fairy fairy story. For children of seven and upwards, who sit in the middle of the action surrounded by a huge set. Courtyard, West Yorkshire Playhouse (0532 442111). Previews Fri, 1.45pm and 7pm; opens Mon-Sat, 3pm and 7pm; then at various times daily until Jan 9.

MANCHESTER: Alan Garner's compelling *Eldor*, a tale of a magic land just a switch away from our own brought to the stage; for seven years and upwards.

Contract, Oxford Road (061-274-4400). Today, 2pm and 7.30pm, Mon, Fri, 7.30pm; and daily from Dec 19.

MIDDL: Charles Dickens's warning against being nasty to the staff on Christmas Eve. A



Desperately seeking eternal youth: Meryl Streep stars in the ice-cold black comedy *Death Becomes Her* (see Film)

Christmas Carol: with new music and lyrics.

Theatre Clwyd, (0352 755114). Today, 2pm and 7pm; then at various times daily until Jan 23.

OXFORD: Daydreaming Princess Foolina and mischievous Tom Fool in *Fooling About*, by the team who produced last year's delightful *Magic Storybook*.

Playhouse, Beaumont Street, SW1 (071-979 8600). Today, Mon, 2pm and 7pm; then at various times daily until Jan 23.

SOUTHAMPTON: Granville Sexton directs *Barbi's Arabian Nights*, with stunts, glitter and, apparently, a full 40 thieves. Nuffield, University Road (0703 671771). Previews from Thurs, 7.30pm; opens Dec 15, 7.30pm; then at various times daily until Jan 16.

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914665) Leicester Square (0426 915683) UCI Whiteleys (071-923 3323).

SISTER ACT (PG): Whoopi Goldberg hides out in a convent. Contrived but dazzling, warm-hearted comedy. Maggie Smith as the Mother Superior. Director, Emily Ardonio. Camden Parkway (071-267 7024) MGM Baker Street (071-935 9772) MGM Oxford Street (071-636 0310) MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) Oddeons: Kensington (0426 914656) West End (0426 915574) Renol (071-837 2789) Screen on the Green (071-226 3323).

SLACKER (15): College-age slackers in Austin, Texas, vent crazy thoughts on life, the Smurfs and UFOs. Striking debut by film-maker Richard Linklater, with an amateur cast. Metro (071-437 0757).

STRICKLY BALLROOM (PG):

One dancer's fight to defy the rules of the Australian Ballroom Dancing Federation. Brilliant debut by director Baz Luhrmann. With Paul Mercurio, Tara Morte.

MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096)

Fulham Road (071-370 2636)

MGM Shaftesbury Avenue (071-835 629 729 7025) Screen on the Green (071-226 3323).

TICKET TO PARIS (15): The

company opens its annual Sadler's Wells season on Tuesday with its production of *Barbi's Arabian Nights*.

Arts (071-928 2252) UCI Whiteleys (071-923 3323).

THREE BIRDS ALIGHTING ON A FIELD: Harriet Walter perfect again in revival of this subtle, comic state-of-the-nation play, set in a world of shifting values and plummeting art-prices. Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (071-730 1745). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm, 150mins.

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MIDDL: Charles Dickens's warning against being nasty to the staff on Christmas Eve. A

born Jiri Kylian has turned it into one of the world's finest on the strength of his powerful and eloquent choreography. This is the troupe's first visit to Britain in 17 years and will be well worth the trip to Bradford for serious dance fans.

LONDON CITY BALLET: The company opens its annual Sadler's Wells season on Tuesday with its production of *Baz Luhrmann's* *Barbi's Arabian Nights*.

Arts (071-928 2252) UCI Whiteleys (071-923 3323).

MASH ENSEMBLE: In an

inspired piece of programming the Nazis celebrate the reopening of the Wigmore Hall with a series of concerts commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Hall's most-loved resident. The first, tomorrow at 4pm, evokes the Fair's musical concert of June 9, 1925. Yvonne Kenny, Sarah Waller and Adrian Thompson are the vocal stars in the all-Fauré programme, which includes not only songs but the two Piano Quintets, and music for viola and piano. Four further concerts in the series are planned between January and April.

WIGMORE HALL: 36 Wigmore Street, London W1 (071-928 8800), Tues next Sat, 2.30pm.

MUSIC

OPERA

BILLY BUDD: Opera North opens its winter season in Leeds with Graham Vick's staging (a co-production with Scottish Opera) of Britten's gripping sage of strife at sea. Nigella Robson is Captain Vere, Jason Howard sings the title role, John Tomlinson is Clappart, Keith Letham, Donald Edgar, Howard一句.

Grand Theatre, Leeds (0532 440971), Fri, 7pm.

DIDO AND AENEAS: Purcell's

signature masterpiece is given an "authentic" staged performance by the English Bach Festival, the first in a series of events to celebrate the pioneering ensemble's 30th anniversary. The cast includes Della Jones, NigelLean Williams and Marilyn Hill Smith. David Wray directs the English Bach Festival Baroque Ensemble, Singers and Dancers.

Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800), Mon, 7pm.

SAUL AND DAVID: Long

neglected outside Denmark, this

opera by Carl Nielsen deserves

attention not only as a continuation

of the composer's symphonies

by other means, but also as a

dynamic work in its own right.

For this concert performance, under the auspices of the "Tales of the North" festival, Andrew Davis conducts the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Chorus.

7pm, Sat, 10pm-7pm, Sun, 10am-6pm, Wed-Dec 18.

CHINESE LAQUER: Most of the

works on display come from the

collection of the late Jean-Pierre

Dubosc, a leading authority on

Chinese art and a pioneer of

Western collectors. Seven pieces date

from as early as the Song

Dynasty (960-1279 AD), others,

I must forsake the tractor, and plough my furrow alone

It never pays to go to plough with a heavy heart. The furrow is too narrow to accommodate human regret and remorse: it has its work cut out even to find room for the large feet of the cart-horses. They have their moods, too, when ploughing, but it only ever seems to be willingness or idleness. I can never detect in the horse's attitude that he has much going through his mind other than thoughts of getting back to his manger.

That is not to underestimate his intelligence, for a good plough-horse is a clever beast. He knows precisely where to walk, when to turn, where to pull, while sensing the mood of the man steering the plough. Well, I must admit that my cart-horses have had some pretty gloomy moods waiting in their direction this ploughing season, and if I have appeared in any way ungrateful for their gargantuan efforts, I apologise.

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY



The ploughing has been grim this year. We have been deluged with rain on a scale I have not witnessed in my short farming career. Arid ditches have become raging torrents, rainwater hangs in puddles in the hoofprints left by the horses, the sheep are turning meadows into quagmires.

After the long drought, the rain is welcome. But its effect on the ploughing has been disastrous because the soil is so wet that it has ceased to behave like soil should, and has taken on the texture of an over-moist Christmas pudding. Consequently, in the same way that a goopy pud sticks to the spoon, the earth is clinging to the plough as though its life depended on it; and even if it relinquishes its clench on

the breast it will not fall away as a well-behaved slice of soil should. Instead of collapsing neatly against the previous furrow, it stands stubbornly upright, heavy, moist and immovable, so that the full weight of a boot against it is necessary to get the cursed earth to move.

What makes this depressing for the ploughman is the thought that for all his efforts to get horses and plough repeatedly along the field (I walk 11 miles to plough one acre), he might be wasting his time.

For the purpose of ploughing is to



stand it on end, as I seem to be doing, last year's crop will grow again, along with a flourish of weeds. Disaster for the organic farmer who has no chemical remedy to check unwanted regrowth.

I am doing my best, and so are the horses in what is turning out to be a strenuous phase of the year. But there are areas in which I have not done my best, and I am paying the price. The field I am now

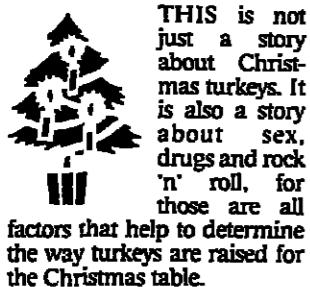
ploughing grew wheat and oats last year. The wheat was successfully cut with our binder, a lightweight device compared with a modern piece of farm machinery. But it was not so lucky with the oats. A rain storm in July flattened them, making cutting with a binder a near-impossibility.

So my neighbour brought his combine-harvester, then his tractor and heavy trailer to take the grain, then a bigger tractor and trailer to gather the straw, and finally another trailer to cart the bales. I pay the price every time my plough hits that patch of land, because where the un-pressed wheat grew, we fill the soil aside with the ease of a child playing in a sandpit, but as soon as we meet the strip where the oats grew, the horses groan and my hands can hardly keep the plough on course through the compacted earth.

Old and new technology cannot

Free love in the turkey yard

Robin Young finds a farmer making a lot of birds very happy — at least until they meet their end at Christmas



THIS is not just a story about Christmas turkeys. It is also a story about sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll, for those are all factors that help to determine the way turkeys are raised for the Christmas table.

Sex is something most modern turkeys know nothing about, because breeding policies have made the "stags" so big-breasted that they are physically unable to mate. The hen, mounted by a modern Leviathan of a sexually mature male bird, cannot take his weight and collapses. The stag, unable to reach her, no matter how he tries, gets over-excited and is liable to die of a heart attack.

Even when turkeys do mate normally, the success rate in fertilising and hatching the eggs is only about 20 per cent. Applying artificial insemination, turkey breeders expect 97 per cent success as normal. Almost without exception, therefore, commercially raised birds nowadays are the results of artificial insemination.

The exceptions are just 70 birds now under sentence of death at a farm near Brentwood in Essex. They are the progeny of sexually liberated parents, raised by Kelly's Turkeys of Danbury, Essex, to the special order of Richard Guy of the Real Meat Company in Warminster, Wiltshire.

Mr Guy's company specialises in ethical meat products. "We put the principle first and determine the price second," Mr Guy says. It follows that the Real Meat Company's turkeys suffer none of the indignities, discomforts or cruelties (save the terminal one) inflicted on their intensively farmed counterparts.

Most turkeys are factory-farmed, like broiler chickens.

Others are pole-farmed, which means that the birds are kept in a shed but allowed natural light and some room to move. Factory and pole-farmed birds have their beaks trimmed, or removed completely, to stop them pecking each other to bits. "Turkeys are naturally very active," says Mr Guy. "If they are not let out into the open early in life, they get bored and irritable and start pecking each other."

Mr Guy's birds do not have to undergo "de-beaking" or "beak-trimming" because they range freely. At liberty to roam over a field pecking at stones, weeds and fence-poles, they feel no need to pick bits out of each other. "If you see a bird described as being free-range with a trimmed beak," he says, "you know the description is not to be trusted. The two are pretty well a test for each other. Fully free-range birds have complete beaks."

Nor do Mr Guy's turkeys, raised for him at Brentwood by David Beanland, live on drugs. Most modern turkeys do. No fewer than 24 drugs are routinely added to turkey "starter crumble" and feed to promote growth and to inhibit diseases. The turkey's pharmacopoeia is, in fact, more liberally stocked than that for any other farm animal, although the labels advise producers to withdraw medicated feeds at least a few days before slaughter.

"Our pigs, I think, are almost all *done* by boar power, our sheep are still tupped by rams and cockers rule the roost over the chickens. Only the turkey has been missing our completely."

The Real Meat Company is one of relatively few free-range producers that abjure all drugs and feed additives throughout the birds' life. "I was boasting about this rather loudly," Mr Guy says, "when I was challenged by Clare Druce of 'Chickens' Lib, the pressure group. She said I would not have made any turkeys' life complete until I allowed adult birds some sexual fulfillment."

Mrs Druce does not have happy Christmases. She

thinks turkey farming as practised in modern Britain is barbaric. Debeaked turkeys, she says, experience "phantom limb syndrome" in the same way that a human who loses a limb can feel that it is still there. "It is a horrible mutilation," she says.

On the other hand, she is unhappy aware that when turkeys are kept in close proximity to each other, they peck each other's eyes out. "I have seen videos of factory-farmed turkeys cannibalising each other," she adds.

She is not much happier about artificial insemination, which happens two or three times a week and, she says, causes the males great stress.

Mr Guy says he was never greatly concerned about artificial insemination before, although among his company's products it is only the turkeys who depend on it so completely. "Most dairy cattle are bred by artificial insemination," he says, "but we have so many welfare concerns about dairy beef that we do not touch any of it. So our beef is the work of real, live bulls."

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among Messrs Kelly's turkeys on Mr Guy's account resulted in only 70 young birds. "We had hoped for 150," Mr Guy says ruefully.

Reverting to old-fashioned love-making in the turkey yard carries its price. The premium price Mr Guy suggests for his full-beaked, free-range, additive-free turkeys this year is £3.49 a pound. The 70 birds that are the product of natural sexual union will be 50p a pound more, but at least people who eat them may be comforted by the thought that they helped make one old turkey very happy.

• The Real Meat Company, East Hill Farm, Heytesbury, Wiltshire, Wiltshire, can deliver naturally conceived turkeys overnight, at £3.99 a pound, plus a delivery charge (mainland UK) of £3.95. Orders: 0985 40436.

ing all the time. One or two lesser black-backed gulls brood on the far shore, not far from a snake that is sleeping there with its long beak tucked under its feathers. The markings on its back are among the most beautiful of all British birds: the chestnut feathers are flecked with yellow, and crossed by long, creamy stripes.

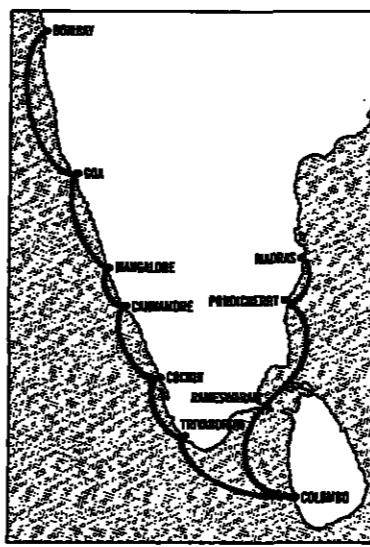
As the short day goes by, the scene changes. By mid-afternoon, the gulls are starting to leave for their roosts, winging lightly away in small groups. Some of the cormorants may be off to a bridge across a river, where they will feel safe from marauding foxes.

There is accommodation for up to 110 passengers. All cabins are 'outside' with private shower and refrigerator. It has a single-sitting restaurant, two lounges, bar, library, shop, beauty parlour, clinic, sun deck, swimming pool and plenty of deck areas for reading or observation.

The excellent facilities are enhanced by the Scandinavian Officers and Management which together with the caring Filipino crew make the Caledonian Star one of the happiest and best run ships afloat.

How better to explore the south of the great Indian sub-continent than aboard a ship sailing from the Coromandel to the Malabar coast. A voyage of discovery past the States of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu as well as a visit to Sri Lanka with its hill city of Kandy.

The south of India is little visited in comparison to the well worn circuits of the north, partly this is due to the more difficult geography but also because of a misinformed view that it is a land of dreary temple ruins. Nothing could be further from the truth. The south is wonderfully exotic



and compared well with anything the north has to offer. Unlike Northern India, the south has escaped the ravages of invaders through the centuries, its

history therefore more peaceful and stable, influenced by traders in spice rather than wars. The people are charming and open and less influenced by western ideology, their festivals and colourful lifestyles, their music and dance make a visit unforgettable.

Days ashore in lush tropical countryside will be filled with sights of dynamic temple architecture, impressive forts, reminders of Portuguese and British colonialism and a fascinating culture of a truly Hindu flavour. Such journeys by air and road are immensely tiring and the benefits of a cruise along this coast are self-evident.

INDIAN COASTAL JOURNEYS

A COAST TO COAST CRUISE AROUND THE SUB-CONTINENT LINKING MADRAS TO BOMBAY

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2-17 March 1993 Guest Speaker - Louise Nicholson

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The excellent facilities are enhanced by the Scandinavian Officers and Management which together with the caring Filipino crew make the Caledonian Star one of the happiest and best run ships afloat.

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Agile and dainty, with two yellow wing bars: the siskin

Feather report



Agile and dainty, with two yellow wing bars: the siskin

also find lesser redpolls, much the same size as the siskins and feeding on the alder cones in the same way, but brown with a red cap. The redpolls tend to separate from the other birds in the air and fly off with a hard, rattling call, unmissable once heard.

Out on the water in the pit there is also plenty of life. Most noticeable will probably be the cormorants. In recent years they have started coming inland more and more in winter. In the London docklands they stand on the top of cranes and look down at the river. In the country they perch on dead trees at the edge of lakes.

They are large birds with snake-like necks and long beaks with a hook at the end. Black-headed gulls are going up and down, screaming

what's above. Birds — look out for flocks of red and pigeon. Twitchers — pied-billed grebe on Argal Reservoir, nr Falmouth. Details Birdline: 0898 700222.

They are agile and dainty green birds with two distinct yellow wing bars. Their forked tails are very noticeable as they cling to the dark twigs. With the sun on them, the males can be picked out by their black caps and black bibs. They have all probably come south from Scotland, where they nest in the conifer forests.

Something startling them, and the whole flock goes up with a swishing murmur. Then they sweep around, and are back in the boughs again. But one bird looks different. It has a gold wing bar, and its head is red and white. There are goldfinches in the flock, too, a little larger than the siskins but almost as acrobatic. Mixed in the flock one may

Bake your cake and send it

Frances Bissell, the Times cook, suggests some seasonal cakes that travel well



NOT long ago, I received a cake through the post from a friend in Alabama. It was a Pepper Patch Original Tennessee Tipsy Cake. A rich, brown, moist fruit cake, as soft and crumbly as a pudding, its main ingredient, at first mouthful, seemed to be Tennessee's favourite sippin' whisky; the other ingredients were listed on the box and, after we had finished it, I decided to make my own. The soft, caramel taste and fudge-like texture comes after long keeping, I decided, but mine wasn't around long enough to test that.

Not having pecan or bourbon to hand, I used broken Brazil nuts and rum. I also made the cake batter in the food processor, very quickly, as the original cake did not have large chunks of fruit or nuts in it. If you plan to keep or send the cake, it will take even more spirit.

Cakes in the Anglo-Saxon or northern European tradition stand up well to being sent as gifts. Indeed, in the days of the mail coach, much of the baggage must have been made up of foodstuffs, exotic fruit and spices leaving London for the provinces and wholesome pies and cakes being sent by the country cousins for deprived townsfolk.

Yeast-based cakes and rich fruit breads keep well and are sturdy enough to be sent by post, train or plane. I have travelled to the Far East with Christmas cake, and from America with my mother-in-law's nut roll. Here, then, are some cakes to make for presents, or to keep for Christmas. They are extremely easy.

The "stollen" recipe, a German Christmas favourite, is excellent for a leisurely breakfast. I rushed home to make one after we had been given it for breakfast by our friend, Martine, a brilliant cook and one half of T&W Wines of Thetford in Norfolk. I made the mistake of buying bought-in marzipan the first time I made it, a pointless short-cut.

since home-made almond paste takes so little time and effort to make and is infinitely superior.

The spiced bread and Christmas ale is a Yorkshire tradition. Serve it from now until Twelfth Night. Black bun is a Scottish speciality for first-footing on New Year's eve, when you will, you hope, open your door after midnight has struck to a tall, dark stranger bearing gifts of coal, salt and bread. Malt whisky is the traditional accompaniment. Buck's fizz with the stollen is not a bad idea.

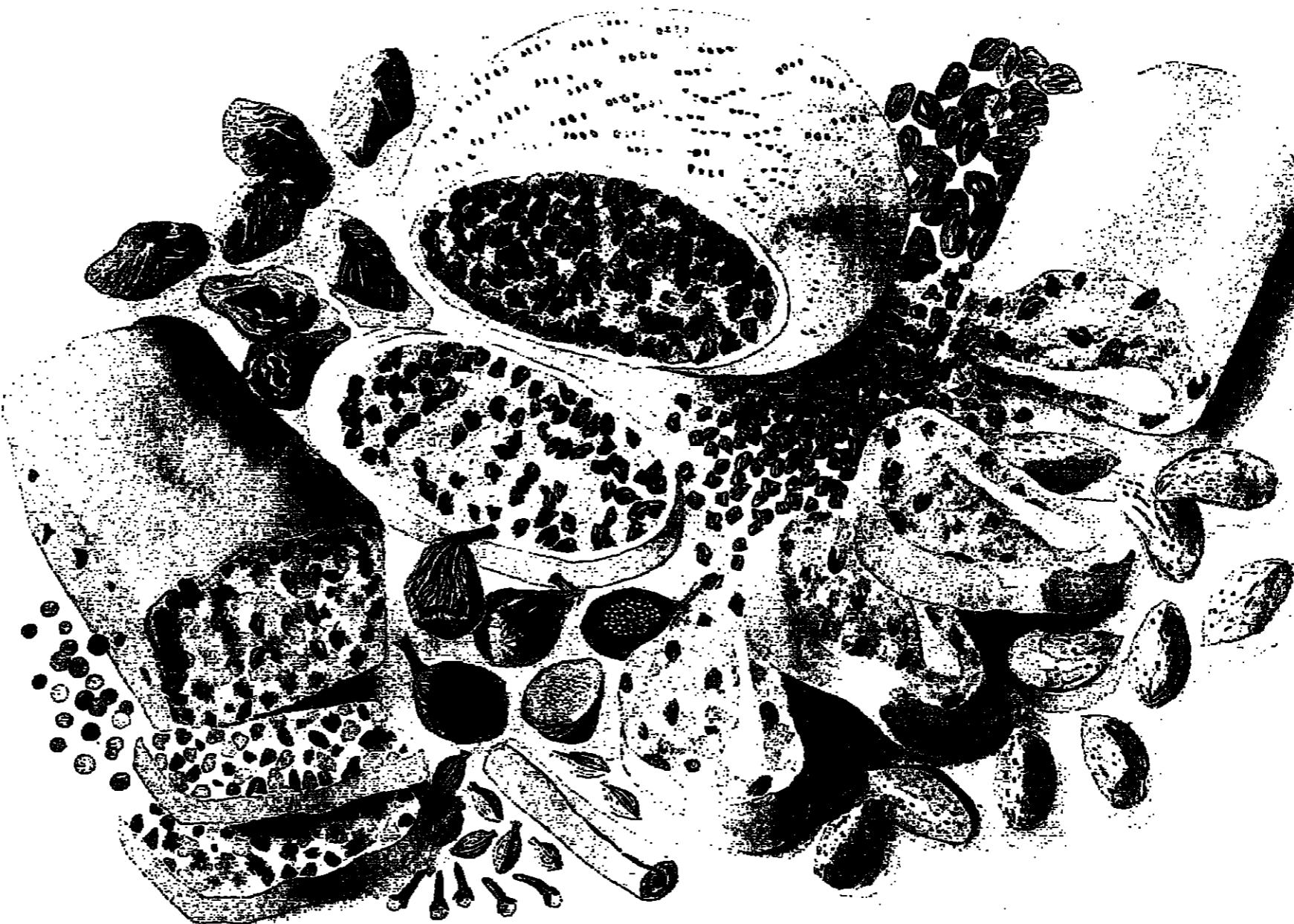
Stollen

3tsp/15g dried yeast
8fl oz/200ml warm milk plus pinch of sugar
1lb/455g strong plain flour
1/2tsp/2g salt
1/4lb/100g butter
grated lemon rind
8-10oz/230-250g mixed dried fruit, chopped to even size
3oz/85g chopped almonds
1 free-range beaten egg

Marzipan

4lb/230g ground almonds
4lb/110g castor sugar
1oz/30g melted butter
sufficient egg white to bind together

Sprinkle the yeast on the milk and leave until it froths. Sift flour and salt into a bowl, and rub in the butter. Add the lemon, fruit, almonds, and then the yeast mixture and egg. Mix to a dough, and knead for ten minutes. Cover, and leave to rise until doubled in bulk. Knock back, and knead the dough for a few minutes, and roll into a long oval. Roll the marzipan into a cylinder, and place down the length of the dough slightly to one side. Fold over the dough, and pinch down to seal. Place on a greased baking sheet. Cover with a clean, damp cloth, and leave to rise in a warm place for 40 minutes or until doubled in size. Bake in a pre-heated oven at 200C/400F, gas mark 6 for 30 to 35 minutes, until well risen and golden brown. Transfer to wire rack to cool. Dust with icing sugar before serving.



Spiced bread and Christmas ale

(makes a 2lb/approx 1kg loaf)
12oz/340g plain flour
1/2tsp ground allspice
1/2tsp freshly grated nutmeg
1/2tsp ground ginger
pinch of salt

7oz/200g lard, butter, or sunflower margarine

7oz/200g light muscovado sugar

2tsp baking powder

2tsp dried instant yeast

1lb/455g mixed dried fruit

1 free-range egg, lightly beaten

about 7fl oz/200ml warm milk and water, mixed

Sift the dry ingredients together into a bowl. Cut in the fat, and then rub it in. Add the sugar, baking powder and yeast, and then the dried fruit. Mix in the egg and milk. Spoon into a lined, greased loaf tin, and bake for three to four hours in a low oven, pre-heated to 150C/300F, gas mark 2. Allow to cool in the tin. Pour the remaining spirit over the cake, having poked holes in it with a skewer. Cover the cake with foil, and allow to stand in a cool place until the spirit is absorbed. It will keep for several weeks in greaseproof and foil.

Christmas ale

(makes about 1pt/570ml)
1pt/570ml ale, such as Thwaites's
2 free-range eggs

1-2tbsp light muscovado sugar

freshly grated nutmeg

1tsp pure vanilla essence

3-4fl oz/85-110ml bourbon or rum

milk

Cream the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in the rest of the ingredients, except for half the spirit, and add enough milk to give a soft dropping consistency to the mixture. Grease and line a loaf tin, and spoon in the mixture. Smooth the top, and bake for two hours in a pre-heated oven at 150C/300F, gas mark 3. Allow to cool in the tin. Pour the remaining spirit over the cake, having poked holes in it with a skewer. Cover the cake with foil, and allow to stand in a cool place until the spirit is absorbed. It will keep for several weeks in greaseproof and foil.

Black bun

Dough

3tsp dried yeast

1pt/580ml warm skimmed milk

2lb/900g strong plain flour

1tsp salt

4lb/110g raisins

4lb/340g unsalted butter

Warm the ale in a saucepan. Beat the eggs, sugar and nutmeg together in a bowl. Pour the ale over the egg mixture, and whisk together. Strain into a saucepan, and stir over a gentle heat so that the mixture does not curdle. Serve hot or cool. Another version of this recipe can be made with mead replacing the beer, which is, I think, even nicer.

Tipsy cake

10oz/280g unsalted butter

10oz/280g dark muscovado sugar or molasses

4 free-range eggs, lightly beaten

1lb/455g self-raising flour

pinch of salt

4lb/110g desiccated coconut

6oz/170g chopped pecan nuts

4lb/110g raisins

4lb/340g unsalted butter

Sprinkle the dried yeast on to the milk, and let it work for 10-15 minutes. Sift the flour and salt, cut in the butter, and then rub in until it resembles fine breadcrumbs. Mix in the yeasty liquid, and knead it until smooth on a floured work surface. Place the dough in an oiled bowl, cover with a clean tea towel, wring out in hot water, and put it to rise in a warm draught-free place until doubled in size. However, as with any yeast baking, if it suits your timetable better, let it rise in a cold place over a longer period.

Glaze

1 free-range egg yolk

1tbsp skimmed milk

Mix the fruit, spices and whisky, and leave to soak while the dough is rising. Divide the dough into two pieces, one piece half the size of the other. Flatten the larger piece on a floured worktop and lay the fruit on it. Knead fruit and dough together until thoroughly incorporated, and draw it together to form a bun. Roll out the other piece of dough to a circle, large enough to enclose the bun. Place the bun in the centre of the dough, and wrap the edges towards the centre. Pinch to seal it. Line a 10-12in/25-30.5cm cake tin with greaseproof paper, and put the bun in it, smooth side up. Cover with a damp tea towel, and let the dough prove for a further 30-40 minutes. Prick all over with a larding needle or skewer, right through the cake. Glaze the surface, and bake in a pre-heated oven at 180C/350F, gas mark 4, for about two hours.

Best of British to your door

Stock up the Christmas larder without leaving home

W here I grew up in Yorkshire, there was a village shop, as well as visits by the mobile library, the fish van from Grimsby, the Co-op van selling dry goods and the grocer's van, not to mention the daily milk deliveries from the local farm.

What happens today in my own corner of north London? A refrigerated van from an organic farm in Somerset comes every Thursday to sell sausages and bacon to the local deli and individual customers. The same day, a flower-seller from Holland parks his drop-sided refrigerated van so you can see the bundles of blooms in large pigeonholes, a fish van from Grimsby calls every Friday, vans deliver mineral water every day and the milk float, with all the lines it carries, looks more and more like a general store.

Local shops are good and branches of the large multiples are within easy reach. Yet it is a real luxury to be able to buy food from the person who grows or produces it.

With efficient mail order and courier services, luxury is now available to all. There is almost no food you cannot get delivered to your door.

Here are some of the people I have dealt with and some whose products I am happy to recommend:

• OYSTERS: Loch Fyne Oysters, Clachan Farm, Cairndow, Argyll (0496 217, fax 0496 234).

• IRISH OYSTERS: Irish oysters — farmed Pacific oysters or the flat, round native oysters — can be delivered within 24 hours. Pacific oysters are available year-round. Prices vary according to quantity ordered.

Cuan Sea Fisheries, Skerries Island, Killinchy, Co. Down (028 541461). Shore-to-door overnight service.

Redbank Shellfish, 140 Tabernacle Street, London EC2A 4SD (071-379 1845).

Atlanic Shellfish, Ross



Arriving home with the milkman: deliveries the old way (from the film *Girle of Gold*)

more, Carrigwhohill, Co. Cork (010 353 21 883248). Oysters flown overnight from Cork to Heathrow. 24-hour delivery service. Atlantic also acts as agent for Chieftain in Cork, which smokes distinctive Atlantic salmon.

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Circus Dias, Suite 117, 1 Lamb Walk, London SE1 5TT (071-403 1137, fax 071-403 1129). Specialises in Spanish products, particularly from Catalonia, including honeys, olive oils and cava. Most dealing is wholesale only, but saffron is sold by post. For £7.50, including postage and packing, you will get 4 grams. The saffron is good-quality, and 4 grams will make plenty of paellas, risottos, saffron buns and fish soups.

Thob Young, Fresh Food, (tel. and fax 071-402 5414). As the name indicates, fresh food is its speciality, including fish from Cornwall, seasonal British cheeses, organic meat, French poultry and the excellent Wild Blue pork I wrote about recently.

Glenarm Salmon Farm, Northern Salmon Company, Glenarm, Northern Ireland (0574 841691).

Steve Downey, of Heritage Foods of Bristol (0275 462676, fax 0275 462279), which normally specialises only in wild salmon. Distributes the fish in Britain.

Simply Salmon, Several Farms, Arklesden, Saffron Walden (0799 550143, fax 0799 550039) for smoked salmon and other food gifts.

• ORGANIC MEAT: The Pure Meat Company, Mail order (tel. and fax 0345 581 463). Specialists in conservation grade meats.

The Real Meat Company, Eashill Farm, Heytesbury, Wiltshire, BA1 2BB, or UKROFS, 86 Colston Street, Bristol, BS1 5BB (0985 40501). Chicken, pork and turkeys from the firm's own farm, as well as meat from farmers who follow its code of practice — about as far as possible from factory farming.

Heat Farm, Kings Nympton, Umberleigh, Devon

(0769 572077, fax 0769 572839). Anne Peach specialises in old-fashioned rare breeds, non-intensively reared, with her own recipe for feed, which is free of hormones and antibiotics.

Highland Venison Marketing, Grantown on Spey, Morayshire (0479 2255, fax 0479 3055), sells wild venison.

Swaddles Green Farm, Hare Lane, Buckland St Mary, Chard, Somerset (0460 234387, fax 0460 234591). Bill and Charlotte Reynolds, the owners, farm organically.

Goodman's Geese, Walsgrave Farm, Great Witney, Worcester WR6 6JU (0299 896211). Judy Goodman keeps an ever-growing flock of free-range geese, available oven-ready from Michaelmas to Christmas.

For more information about organic meat, consult the Soil Association, 86 Colston Street, Bristol, BS1 5BB, or UKROFS, 86 Colston Street, Bristol, BS1 5BB (0985 40501). Chicken, pork and turkeys from the firm's own farm, as well as meat from farmers who follow its code of practice — about as far as possible from factory farming.

Heat Farm, Kings Nympton, Umberleigh, Devon

E.B.

Some FLOCK wallpaper.

(To enhance the AUTHENTIC INDIAN FLAVOUR of our new PAKORA.)

Our new Pakora and flock wallpaper both capture the true spirit of Indian cuisine. One is a crisp, substantial potato snack with sesame seeds. Battered and lightly fried before being coated in sweet and spicy Brinjal pickle. It is of unquestionably good taste. The other is not.



MADE IN MEDMUNSLY ROAD, COVENT GARDEN

PIERMONT
After Piermont, anything else is just

Hotlines to the wine experts

Let the
merchants do
the packing.
Jane MacQuitty
dials for help

DO NOT fret with only three shopping weeks to Christmas. The wine trade should be able to handle the selecting, wrapping and delivering of presents for you.

This year, some merchants, desperate for eleventh-hour sales, are happy to take Christmas orders as late as December 15. All you have to do is make a few phone calls and sign some cheques.

Berry Bros & Rudd (3 St James's Street, London SW1, 071-396 9600) is not the cheapest wine merchant, but it is reliable, so the cinnamon-scented '85 Château Talbot magnum (£39.65) from its two dozen gift parcels is not to be sniffed at. Neither is its plummy '66 Goud Campbell port with a 10 oz jar of Paxton & Whitfield's stilton (£29.50). Postage and packing £4.50. An item: orders must be in by December 7.

Across the road at 61 St James's Street, London SW1, lies Justerini & Brooks (071-493 8721). Berry's arch and equally puissant rivals. Better value festive wines here include the two-bottle Moselle and Claret case (£15), the six-bottle Muscadet and 1 lb smoked Scottish salmon pack (£49), plus the bottle each of own-label Sarcey champagne, chablis, and warming '86 Château Beaumont claret (£39). Prices include delivery: last orders December 7.

If you are after swanky packages, Fortnum & Mason, 181 Piccadilly, London W1 (071-465 8666), will oblige — at a price; its gentleman's gift box — a silver decanting funnel, plus the glorious violet-scented '77 Taylor's port — costs £80. Carriage £7.50, last orders December 7.

Style-conscious wine lovers will put gloriously colourful vine and grape-strewn silk waistcoats (£65) and ties (£19.50) from Adnams at the top of their list. For a truly memorable gift, why not wrap one around a bottle of Adnams' classic '90 Pauliac (£13.20). Château Latour's "third wine", or a sensational Sainsbury plum and cherry-layered '90 Pinot Noir Reserve (£16.50)? Adnams, The Crown, High Street, Southwold, Suffolk (0502 724222). Charges vary; pre-Christmas orders before December 15.

Buying presents for men can be difficult. Try Dow's 1970 vintage port, plus a pack of Montecristo tubos cigars (£7.50 from Cornley & Barrow, 12 Helmet Row, London EC1 (071-251 4051). Delivery



"... And bring me wine": Alan Perry, foreground, and Peter Gunn, cellarmen for Berry Bros & Rudd in London, selecting stock for Christmas

more generous than the price tag, as does the firm's Christmas table trio (£19.95). This offers the fine, musky '89 Château Brionne claret, a smoky, buttery '91 Mâcon and the delicious, intense, netty '91 Martinborough Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc. Lay & Wheeler is at 6 Culver Street West, Colchester, Essex (0206 764446). Charges vary; orders by December 6.

Townies should contact Bibendum at 113 Regent's Park Road, London NW1 (071-722 5577), for free delivery of cases within the M25 area, as well as in Yorkshire and surrounding counties. Best festive bets here include the fruity Lonsdale Ridge Australian fizz at £3.99 and Bibendum's own-label Verve Delaroy champagne at £8.99. Last orders December 22.

As usual, The Wine Society, Gunnels Wood Road, Stevenage, Hertfordshire (0438 740222), offers the best festive collection. But you must be a member. If you hurry an application through before Christmas, you might acquire the Society's Celebration Case (£23), with its rich, nutty '82 Celebration White Burgundy and smoky '85 Celebration Red. Or what about plum pudding and a bottle of a Muscat St Jean de Minervois. (£15)? Nobody will be disappointed either with two bottles of the society's splendid, aged own-label champagne — Alred Gratié's '88 vintage — due to rise in price in January. Prices quoted include delivery; last orders December 7.

Scoffers should seek out Lay & Wheeler's '92 gift pack selection, whose plummy claret, port and zesty champagne own-label trio (£27.60) looks

BEST WINE GIFTS

Lonsdale Ridge £3.99, Bibendum, 113 Regent's Park Road, London NW1

Château Brionne claret, a smoky, buttery '91 Mâcon and the delicious, intense, netty '91 Martinborough Vineyards

Sauvignon Blanc. Lay & Wheeler is at 6 Culver Street West, Colchester, Essex (0206 764446). Charges vary; orders by December 6.

Other keenly priced festive hooch can be had from Tanners, at 26 Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury, Shropshire (0743 232007), whose Christmas claret trio of '88 Haut Sociondo, '89 Roc de Montpezat and '89 La Sablière is good value in a gift box at £20.50, as are the bottles of '91 Côtes du Rhône from the Vacqueyras co-op, and a '90 Ibbesheimer Herlisch Kabinett (£11 for the two). Delivery free within 50 miles (outside area free for orders above £75), otherwise £6; last orders by December 16.

Yapp Bros, the Old Brewery, Mere, Wiltshire (0747 860423), offers, as always, useful Christmas savings including the 12-strong party package containing six bottles of a fresh, white '91 Saumur and fruity red '91 Gamay de l'Ardeche for £49, saving £6.50 on prices. Charges include delivery; festive orders by December 14.

After all that effort, why not reward yourself with a fruity, cherry-packed magnum of '91 Georges Duboeuf beaujolais in an especially Christmassy bottle? (Le Nez Rouge, 12 Brewery Road, London N7, 071-609 4711, £10.99).

● Lay & Wheeler Christmas table trio £19.95

● Tanners Rhine and Rhône £11.26 Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury

● 1991 Georges Duboeuf Beaujolais magnum £10.99, Le Nez Rouge, 12 Brewery Road, N7.

FOOD SPY: SMOKED SALMON

Hooked on the best

SALMON, the prince of fishes, is kin to the proletarian herring. Both are from a group known as the *Isopodidae*, and go back millions of years. So the herring and the salmon are both old enough to smoke, and they are smoked in large numbers.

Christmas and New Year is the smoked salmon season, when our consumption of the delicacy leaps tenfold. Smoking a salmon is simple. You soak the fish in brine, split it into two sides, remove the spine and smoke the sides over oak chippings. The process is called cold-smoking, because heat plays no part in the preserving of the fish. This is achieved by the drying action and the presence of phenols in the smoke. The old system was to hang the sides on a kind of monster tie-rack in a smoker, a shed perhaps 12ft by 8ft. For 12, 14, even 18 hours, depending on the size of fish, the smoke gently penetrated from below. Modern industrial methods use a bigger chamber and the smoke is blown over the fish by machine.

I have to declare myself a traditionalist: the old way seems to penetrate the fish better. Michael Brown

smokes his salmon the old way, using wild fish, some from Scotland, some from rivers in the West Country.

His firm, Brown & Forrest, Thorney, Langport, Somerset (0458 251520), sells its smoked salmon by post. An 8 oz sliced pack costs £9.25, an unsliced but boned 2 lb side £26.50. B & F also sells smoked eel and its smoked trout is a very different kettle of fish. It is given a sophisticated taste by adding whisky and brown sugar to the cure.

Supermarket smoked salmon is usually excellent so long as it's Scotch, or Scottish, as it is usually called. The Canadian version, usually Pacific salmon from British Columbia, is cheaper, but it is not quite smoked salmon as we know it. The taste and texture are different: perhaps it should be renamed. It is good, though, in cooked dishes.

Sainsbury's does two styles of Scotch smoked salmon, both really good. The standard version is £12.60 a pound at the delicatessen counter; its Isle of Skye smoked salmon costs £7.48 for an 8 oz pack.

FRANK JEFFERY

● See facing page for more smoked salmon suppliers

Another big Christmas offer from Victoria Wine.



Litre for the price of a bottle.

At Victoria Wine this Christmas you'll get a litre of medium sweet, crisp dry white or fruity red for just £2.99 — the price of a bottle, save 90p. Don't miss out though, or you'll wine, wine, wine.

Three cheers for value. **VICTORIA WINE**

Offer subject to availability until January 4th 1993.

By law we are not allowed to sell alcoholic drinks to persons under 18 years of age.

How to have your festive feast and survive it too

Calories to cut

ON Christmas day, the average feaster consumes more than 6,000 calories. The overdose of carbohydrates and saturated fats diverts blood from the rest of the body to the overstrained stomach and intestines, creating a lethargy that saps energy which might otherwise have been used in exercise to work off the effects. The liver, probably already working overtime filtering alcohol, is supposed to be making bile to process fats arriving in the small intestine. No wonder the merrymaker feels dreadful.



● You can mitigate the consequences. Roast the turkey and potatoes in olive oil, rather than lard. Be selective about trimmings: fresh cranberry sauce good, chipolatas bad. Why add to waistlines by thickening the gravy?

● Cut the fat further by making a Christmas pudding without suet, butter and flour; add extra wholemeal bread; add extra wholemeal bread;

● Clear the Christmas buffet of cocktail sausages, pâtés, gala pie and coleslaw. Bring on smoked salmon, haddock and eel; pickled herrings with chopped onions, dill or mustard sauce; finely sliced hams such as Parma, San Daniele, Bayonne, jamon de Serrano, Black Forest or Tirolese Speck, and vegetable delicacies such as artichoke hearts, dried tomatoes, baked sweet peppers and mushrooms *d la Grecque*.

● If you do eat and drink too much, eat before you drink, and intersperse alcoholic drinks with non-alcoholic ones. Good acid-blocking drugs are available, and after a blowout, a raised bedhead helps to prevent stomach acid making its way up the oesophagus to cause heartburn and indigestion.

PIERMONT
Sparkling Spring Water
With Pure Apple Juice

After Piermont,
everything else is just water.

ROBIN YOUNG

Office party animals

Where will the best Christmas bashes be held? Anywhere, except in the office — and the wackier the venue, the better. Sebastian Goetz and Peter Brown join in

A RECESSION? A slump? No, no, it's December now, and high time to loosen belts that have been tightened all year. Time to put on a silly hat and pull a cracker at the office Christmas party, where, according to a survey by Alfred Marks, a quarter of all office relationships take wing.

But where to hold it? The only place that's out of court is the office itself. That apart, anything and anywhere goes, and the zanier the better. No theme has been left unturned by party organisers, no hall left empty by owners desperate to turn a seasonal shilling.

Some venues come as no surprise. You can have a steamy time at the Kew Bridge Steam Museum (wear your boiler suit). You can sip bubbly in London Zoo's aquarium. But the Imperial War Museum? Yes, thrill at Christmas to a "Blitz Experience". To the sound of exploding bombs and air-raid sirens, surrounded by searchlights, revelers are invited to run downstairs to mock bomb shelters. Seats vibrate to the continuing rumblings. The party-goers emerge, accompanied by ARP wardens, into scenes of bombed-out London, where, presumably, they sing defiant carols.

Even if the personnel manager's budget does not stretch that far — and companies can spend £50 tax-free on each employee at Christmas — the museum's military surroundings alone offer plenty of opportunity for regression into childhood fantasies. According to Suzanne Costello, who organises special

events there — and the museum has played host to such companies and organisations as BP and Friends of the Earth — people have sudden urges to pilot planes which are suspended from the ceiling, and occasionally they try. They also get stuck in tanks.

Many are the hazards of a cool yule. At a hypnosis party one woman, led to believe that her colleague had just pinched her bottom, turned round and whacked him on the skull with the heel of her shoe. Result: six stitches. Hardly surprising that party organisers have to be insured up to the eyeballs.

Themed parties, increasingly popular, hold their own dangers.

The managing director who fancies himself as John Wayne at a Wild West event should know that it is all too easy, apparently, to break your coccyx on a mechanical bucking bronco.

A famous advertising agency reportedly held a Christmas party at an ice-rink at which several limbs were broken. The agency has declined to confirm or deny the rumour, but there are clearly dangers in being legless on ice.

Some groups have a natural entrée to the top party places. The parliamentary press corps Christmas shindig has been known to end with children running all over the Chamber, even sitting (don't tell the whips) in the Speaker's chair.

Others less fortunate can improve the look of their venue by hiring an organiser. They can choose between a Viennese Christmas (string quartets, trees decorated with pomegranates and tartan); a Russian Christmas (stuffed bears; snow machine, vodka, balalaikas;



Jolly good company: staff of *The Times* behaving themselves unusually well under the royal gaze last year at Madame Tussaud's

and a Speakeasy Christmas (sky-scraper backdrop). For Reuters, the international news agency, a catering firm called The Moving Venue recreated a newsroom for a black and white Christmas — video screens, monochrome films, huge newscasters all over the walls. Now wouldn't you think they'd want to get away from all that?

Others stretch their themes with a vengeance. The Arc advertising agency will be in carnival mood in Chalk Farm this year with a South American nine-piece jazz band, two roulette tables and croupiers, a black female Santa and a Salvation Army band.

Some people see children as party poopers. For those who do not, there are many opportunities

and take something away, or race aeroplanes or cars. There are students and lecturers on hand to help with whizz-bangs. Adults get glühwein.

Aided by their latest skeleton, invariably called Charlie, the medical students at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, also provide the children with anatomy lessons, a timely reminder for the adults of the dangers of Christmas party-going generally.

Charlie would presumably enjoy himself at one of the nudist parties organised by Mark Wilson of Eureka! in Kent. People, he says, come from all over the country. "We are the only club to call ourselves 'nudist'. All the others call science stalls where they can experience

clothes back on as soon as it gets dark or cold."

There are obvious physical dangers here, though not, one suspects, much sexual harassment, an annual Christmas party problem and one which some companies these days warn their employees about and insure against. As Roger Vincent, head of legal services at Domestic and General, one of the underwriting insurers, said last year: "People will have to learn to take their hands off bottoms."

At some venues decorum is essential. The smashing of priceless artefacts in the Victoria & Albert Museum's Chinese, Japanese, Indian, Islamic and costume galleries, which can be opened for an extra fee, would not be welcome. It

Party lines	
■ The Kew Bridge Steam Museum: contact Lesley Bassine, 081-568 4757	
■ London Zoo contact: Simon Carpenter, 071-586 3339	
■ The Imperial War Museum: contact Suzanne Conello, 071-416 5394	
■ The Moving Venue: Anna Wiggleworth, 071-924 2444	
■ Santa Special: bookings can be made on 05806 6428	
■ Eureka!: contact Mark Wilson, 0473 704418	
■ Victoria & Albert Museum: contact Alicia Robinson, head of special events, 071-935 8306	
■ Madame Tussaud's: contact Alan Roberts, banqueting manager, 071-935 6861 (ext. 218)	



is perhaps not surprising that V&A Christmas parties can be themed around the Victorians and their unimpeachable morals.

Madame Tussaud's entered the party business when Jeff Banks was courting Sandy Shaw and wanted to organise a twenty-first birthday party in the Chamber of Horrors. The gallows made an excellent stage for record decks, and the waxwork museum has not looked back since.

The Times, which has formerly caroused at the Imperial War Museum and the Lloyd's building, will be holding its Christmas party at Madame Tussaud's this year, as last. It will finish at midnight, unlike that held by the Scotch Malt Whisky Society, which begins at 3pm on December 13 and ends on some unspecified date thereafter. The invitation: "Three o'clock at the Vaults on Dec 13. It's a hoolie we're havin', no' greetin'. Bring a freen' an' some wine. And carouse till yon time. But wear aneeting red — an' no' cheatin'" (Translation: hoolie/party, greetin'/moaning, freen/friend). The main drink is obvious, though there is also plenty of everything else.

Hangovers? The Welsh have an answer. In the remote Gwaun valley in Dyfed, villagers have not yet recognised the Gregorian calendar, preferring an earlier version. They celebrate Christmas on the usual date, but greet the New Year (*Nos Galan*) on January 13, thus giving themselves plenty of recovery time, though both, according to the Fishguard police, are "just an excuse to get pie-eyed".

Pie-eyed? At a Christmas party? Surely not.

Haunted by ghosts of Christmas repasts

You know you've reached adulthood when parents and children descend on you and expect you to mastermind Christmas. Sue Crewe examines a stressful tradition

SOMEBODY, somewhere may be dreaming of a white Christmas but I'm dreaming of a presentless, turkeyless, tinsel-less Christmas. Every year about this time I have the same recurring nightmare: it involves going to the country on Christmas Eve and becoming aware that I have not made a single preparation. There are no stockings for the children, no presents, no food, no decorations, nothing. It is the mother of all anxiety dreams and may well be showing at a pillow near you between now and December 25.

Between the oblivion of infancy and serenity of antiquity there are several ages of Christmas anxiety. Children worry about the number and quality of presents and whether Father Christmas will fit down the chimney. Lovers are distracted by romance and are tormented either by separation from the loved one or by having to share them with their relations.

After a certain age there is the anxiety of being a relation and later still you can cause a lot of anxiety by being a difficult old relation. The middle years, however, are the vintage years for festive anxiety. It is in these middle years, between being an irresponsible youth and a complaining old body, that you have to drive the engine of Christmas; you plan it, you pay for it, you find yourself doing Christmas.

For some people, the strain of it all is too much and they go slightly mad. I have a friend called Poppy who, having no living parents, stays with her husband's family every Christmas. Last year, she and her husband were startled, late on Christmas Eve, to hear a terrible shriek coming from the direction of the kitchen. Rushing to the source of the noise, they found Poppy's mother-in-law weeping disconsolately over the turkey she had been preparing for the oven.

Apparently, for the first time in 30-odd years the butcher had sent the bird without its giblets, and the unhappy woman could see no possibility of making gravy without giblets. The prospect of a gravy-less Christmas dinner was too awful to contemplate.

The upshot was that Christmas morning found Poppy and her husband driving around the deserted Northumbrian countryside looking for giblets. Eventually they spotted a live chicken and having, with difficulty, tracked down the farmer who owned it, bought it



Exhausted by the effort of planning the whole thing: the night before Christmas as depicted on a *John Bull* magazine cover in 1955

With further difficulty they persuaded him to bring the creature's neck, and returned home with a failure to blend chestnuts with the Brussels sprouts can be upsetting.

Apart from illustrating that farmers will do just about anything for hard cash, this story shows how immutable are the rituals of Christmas and how burdened we can be by their observance.

The first Christmas away from home can provoke the most pierc-

ing anxiety. We are affronted by change; by not having a stocking waiting on the end of the bed. Even a failure to blend chestnuts with the Brussels sprouts can be upsetting.

The way other people decorate their tree or hang up their cards can make them seem very alien. Whereas one's own family is charmingly warm and informal, our presents to each other original and eccentric, other people's families

are more likely to be insufferably rowdy and their presents of recycled gardening books the last word in meanness.

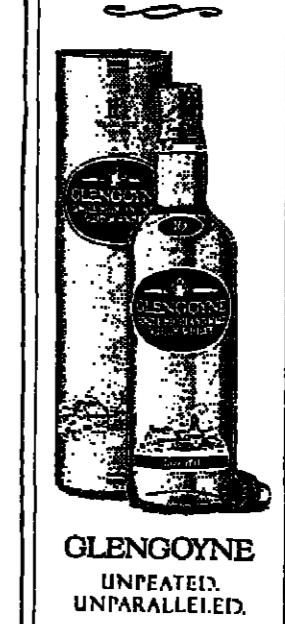
Janine di Giovanni, an author and foreign correspondent, will be in Sarajevo this year — the first time ever she has not spent Christmas with her family. Sensing the festive gathering momentum gives her "a nagging feeling". She tells herself to "stop being such a baby" and

that "you can't sit in front of the Christmas tree drinking hot chocolate with your family for ever". When she broke the news, her mother said in "a kind of little voice, 'we'll miss you very much, if won't be the same without you'".

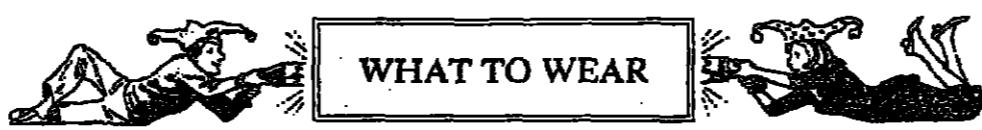
A male friend will not be going home for Christmas because last year, newly divorced and childless, the old familial patterns were reproachful. "Christmas is about



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When you grow out of cider swigging and unsubtle chat-up lines, what constitutes a good party? Julia Llewellyn Smith finds out

Roaring teens, boring twenties

When Ruth, William, Damon and Henrietta were 15, they had swigged a whole bottle of cider, snogged the first boy available and ended the evening by being sick in the bushes.

Time has passed. Ruth, William, Damon and Henrietta are now 23, and find themselves at parties balancing glasses of Beaujolais on a plate which also holds two cocktail sausages, a vol-au-vent and a miniature onion bhaji.

They all agree that parties are not what they used to be. "I hate having to stand around asking complete strangers what they do. It was much more fun when you just got down to it and snogged them," complains Damon, a journalist. "I prefer dinner parties, where you can talk properly to people and get to know someone new quite well; or clubs, where you can just dance. Parties are a horrible mixture of the two."

Damon, who is young and free, but slightly tired of being single, knows that the past is another country, where they do things differently. "You grow out of that kind of thing, 15 times bitten twice shy and all that." But he admits that meeting "babes" is still at the back of his mind. "The only thing different from my teenage years is that everyone is more subtle these days. Instead of grabbing an attractive girl, with all your mates looking on approvingly, you are more likely to do the 'I live in Clapham and this party is in Notting Hill, so it makes perfect sense to share a taxi home' routine. Just as subtle, but in a different way."

Unfortunately for Damon, there is no male equivalent of the little black dress. "I always think about what to wear to a party, but I always end up wearing what I would in the street." He says he thinks many men secretly enjoy blacktie occasions. "We all end up looking the same, but at least there is more of a sense of doling yourself up. Men must



out on that side of things."

Ruth and Henrietta say they spend about 20 minutes getting ready for a party. "That was more fun in the old days too, when your girlfriends came round before the school disco and you all swapped nail varnish and blusher and did each other's hair," says Henrietta. Both have boyfriends and they go to parties because it is a convenient way to see a lot of people. "At school and college you saw your friends every day, so the point of parties was to meet men," says

Ruth, who works for a photographic agency. "But when you start working your friends are all scattered and it's wonderful to have a big gathering and see everyone."

Neither woman has much money, but both make an effort to dress up. "When I put on my flares and my platforms or my hotpants at the end of the week it makes me feel completely free," says Ruth. "I don't actually wear shoulder pads and stilettos to work, but I behave as if I do — all stressed and efficient. Dressing up for a

party is creative and relaxing and makes me realise the time I have is mine to do what I want with." Ruth shops for clothes in markets or at designer sales, or persuades her mother to make her things.

Henrietta, who works in arts administration, has more expensive tastes, but her clothes last for years. "When I go to a party I like wearing old things I feel comfortable in, with maybe one new thing to boost my spirits and make me feel vaguely fashionable," she says. This year's buy is a pair of

chuncky-heeled shoes, which add at least four inches to her height. "I thought finally I would be as tall as all my friends, but they are all wearing heels too, so it ends up the same," she laments.

The only hangover from their adolescent wardrobes is a disproportionate amount of black. "When you are a teenager black seems rebellious and sophisticated," says Henrietta. "I remember my mother was always buying me things in horrible bright colours, because she thought they were young and fresh and black was tarty. Black is best because it's not too flamboyant, and it makes you look thinner and more elegant."

The four wonder what teenagers get out of parties. "I don't think the kind of party where you say so-and-so's family is away, let's all go round there and break into the drinks cabinet exists any more," Ruth says. "These days they are all taking Ecstasy, which kills their sex drive, and raving the night away in warehouses in the middle of the country. Our wild, cider-drinking youth seems so sweet and innocent in comparison."

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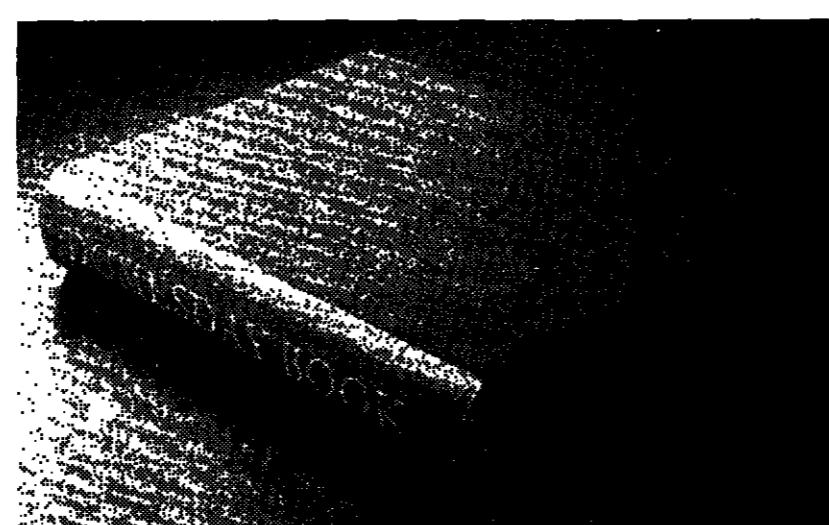
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Santa-free zones

■ Hotel Nelson, Prince of Wales Road, Norwich NR1 1DX (0603 760260). Bah-Humbug Breaks, Dec 28-Jan 5, any three nights £59.50-£67.50 per person, accommodation, breakfast.

■ Gidleigh Park, Chagford, Devon TQ13 8HH (0647 432677/432225). No organised programmes at Christmas or New Year. Rooms and suites £270 to £350 including dinner for double occupancy.

■ Youth Hostels Association, Trevelyan House, 8 St Stephen's Hill, St Albans, Herts AL1 2DV (0727 55215). Hostel winter lettings are bookable through the three regional offices: northern England for hostels from Peak District to Scottish border, Matlock (0629 825850); southern England, Salisbury (0722 337515); Wales, Cardiff (0222 396766). The Scottish Youth Hostels Association, 7 Glebe Crescent, Stirling FK8 2JA (0786 518181) operates a similar scheme.

■ Blakes Holidays, Wroxham, Norfolk NR12 8DH (0603 783222). Other agencies with country cottages available for Christmas include English Country Cottages, Grove Farm, Barns, Fakenham, Norfolk NR21 9NB (0388 851155).

■ Butterfield's Indian Railway Tour (0262 470230).

If the sound of jingle bells is less than music to your ears, es

How to duck the season's greetings

How do you escape

Christmas when non-celebrants are invited to pay just £58.50 per person for any three nights (£67.50 in superior rooms) on the assurance that their lives will remain jingle and carol free during their stay.

In previous years the hotel provided a bowl of gruel each evening, with a guarantee that it would be served without all the trimmings and the management suggested that a wake-up call could be arranged each morning in the form of clanking chains and Marleyan groaning outside the bedroom door.

This year's incentives, though, are a jar of English mint humbugs (for splitting urchins), a souvenir photograph of the local tax office, and the opportunity to tour not only that hard-hearted institution but also the local waterworks and prison too. Guests will also be presented with a copy of Dickens's classic volume *A Christmas Carol* (hero: Scrooge), which is quite a good book until the end when it turns hopelessly soppy.

The glorious Gidleigh Park Hotel at Chagford in Devon, on the edge of Dartmoor and

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FROM
MAS

e with Robin Young to find some peace and quiet on earth



Ho humbug: Paul Henderson (left) and Shaun Hill get in the mood at Gidleigh Park

within easy tramping distance of plenty of abandoned pagan megaliths, manger-less hut circles and bleak stone rows, promises to keep Christmas as owkey as possible too.

It has hung Christmas decorations on the ground floor, admittedly, and will have turkey and mince pies available on Christmas Day for those who require such cliché food, an otherwise owner Paul Henderson's only concession to the season of goodwill is an extra course on chef Shaun Hill's set menus, in recognition of the fact that over Christmas the unavailability of supplies necessarily curtails guests' choice.

"We have never organised anything special for Christmas," Mr Henderson says, "and people seem to like it that way."

The unChristmasy approach, the excellence of Mr Hill's cuisine and the unmissable comfort of Gidleigh's rooms and suites certainly seem to have appeal since, despite prices which run up to £350 a night for two including dinner, the hotel is already fully booked for Christmas itself, though a few rooms are still available within the extended holiday period.

If there are enough like-minded Christmas refugees in

on getting away from it all, one possible solution is to hire a youth hostel and declare it a Christmas-free zone. This year for the first time the Youth Hostels Association (0727 55215) has decided to rent out its smaller hostels during the winter, when they would previously have been closed. Hostels with from 18 to 40 rooms are available from as little as £100, and, although those in the south-west have long been fully booked for Christmas and New Year, a few may still be available to serve as safe havens from Christmas in less favoured parts of the kingdom.

The hostels, at least, come

A gift-wrapped package of suggestions full of seasonal cheer, in Britain or abroad

In principle Christmas is a solemn time of rest, renewal and prayer. In practice it is more often an almighty blow-out involving, for many, an exodus to places of highly organised merriment and jollification, which is perfectly appropriate since the "mas", as in Michaeimas and Christmas, denoted originally the sending away of the unbaptised so that the temple should be pure.

Modern hotels often look like temples, but their purification is generally restricted to the necessary observation of the food hygiene regulations. Many, though, arrange for some religious observance too, by organising trips to candlelit midnight mass and hiring carol singers.

In ecclesiastical terms, Christmas is a feast devoted to a religious anniversary. In our secular world, it cunningly mixes mid-winter pagan rituals with the Christian notion of breaking bread together, on a particularly grand scale. It is the last great romantic feast which survives in this country, and our best opportunity to rekindle the bond between family and friends by gorging together again.

Here, then, are some of the best places to enjoy a very merry Christmas indeed:

UNITED KINGDOM

■ **Cathedral Christmases:** The Lamb Hotel at Ely (0353 663574), a former coaching inn beside Ely cathedral, offers a three-night traditional Christmas break starting on Christmas Eve: £245 an adult full board, with carol singing and a dance evening. Lainson House Hotel, Sparsholt, Winchester (0962 863588) will be taking guests to midnight mass at Winchester cathedral, providing roasted chestnuts, buttered crumpets and muffins, mulled wine, a clay pigeon shoot and pantomime in the course of a four-day programme: £625 a person including all meals.

■ **Supersonic sleighride:** The Lygon Arms, Broadway (0386 852255), the Savoy Group's country house, offers a four-day break including carol singers, mince pies, midnight service, Boxing Day hunt meet and, for the children, rides in the G-Force Simulator which recreates the thrill of riding in a supersonic jet, or Santa's sleigh: £185 a person per day.

■ **Christmas at gotholm:** Belton Woods Hotel & Country Club near Grantham, Lincolnshire (0476 593200) is marking the driving range with Christmas trees, dressing Santa in green, presenting personalised golf balls, putting jingle-bells on the golf buggies, substituting a cold turkey picnic out on the course for Christmas Day lunch, and playing golf video instead of the Queen's speech: £225 a person for a three-day package.

■ **Christmas afloat:** Alvechurch Boat Centres, near Birmingham (021-445 2909), have narrowboats ready pro-

We'll take Manhattan for Christmas: shopping and champagne in the Big Apple

vided with Christmas tree, cake and presents aboard: from £103-£180 a person for a week's hire. Blakes Boating Holidays (0603 782911) can provide cruisers on the Norfolk Broads or canal boats: £333 a week for a boat for four to six, or three and four-night breaks from about £200.

■ **Forte for Christmas:** Forte Hotels are offering four Christmas packages at more than 200 hotels. Gala Celebration Christmases with champagne, silver service gala dinners, dinner dances and visits to the theatre, races or other local attractions: Family Christmases with free room for up to three children, under fives free, under 16s £29 a day; Christmas Crackers with games, quizzes and singalongs; and Traditional Christmases with carol singers, midnight mass and pantomime. Three nights from about £55 a night (0345 404040).

■ **Welsh wonderland:** The Alice in Wonderland Trail is one highlight of Christmas at the St Tudan Hotel, Llandudno (where Alice Liddell stayed, aged eight). Others include the Colwyn Male Voice Choir, buck's fizz, laverbread and lamb chop breakfast, and a Boxing Day race into the sea: four nights from £382 a person (0492 874411).

■ **Highland style:** The loch-side Ballachulish Hotel, Ballachulish, Argyll (08552 606) includes driving disco, heavenly harp and Highland dancing in its three-day programme for £225 a person.

■ **Leisurely luxury:** Hanbury Manor, Ware, set in 200 acres of Hertfordshire countryside, has leisure facilities which include a Jack Nicklaus golf course, health spa and three restaurants under the direction of Albert Roux. Carol singers on Christmas Eve, Father Christmas at Christmas Day lunch and a jazz lunch on Boxing Day: double rooms from £75 a person sharing (0920 437722).

■ **For music lovers:** Travel for the Arts (071-483 4466) has schemes which include Vienna from December 21-27, with *Marriage of Figaro* at the Staatsoper (£995); and Christmas in the Black Forest, December 22-27. *Romeo and Juliet* and *Don Giovanni* in Stuttgart and Baden-Baden (£895).

■ **Logging on:** Le Château Montebello, the world's largest and most luxurious log cabin, half-way between Ottawa and Montreal, has a Christmas getaway available from December 27 to New Year's Eve from Cdn\$99 (£50) a night. Cross-country ski-trails, curling, snowmobiling, ice-skating, snowshoeing, tobogganing and sleigh-riding. (010 819 4236341).

■ **Christmas in Manhattan:** From December 18 to January 31 the intimate Mark Hotel on the Upper East Side near the Metropolitan Museum is offering a special Christmas package including dinner, champagne and breakfast at US\$360 (£222) a couple, with the second night at US\$235. At

an extra charge the use of a limousine is available for shopping or sightseeing. (Free phone 0800 282684.)

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Get cracking!

Dig out your old cards, felt-tip pens, tinsel and foil and put restless children to festive work, Jane Bidder says

CHRISTMAS fever is mounting, the children are restless and there's still three weeks to go. How can you keep them quiet without spoiling the spirit of Christmas? Easy (well, almost). Dust down your dormant artistic skills, scour the kitchen drawers for felt-tips that haven't dried up and follow these ideas, which always keep my own brood busy during the wet weekend lead-up to December 25.

• Make a pop-up snowman

Buy a stack of paper cups and trim one cup in half. Take the lower section and make a small slit in the bottom — just big enough to slide a lolly-stick through, so that one end emerges into the cup and the other sticks out from underneath it. If you can't find a lolly-stick, make an alternative out of cardboard or use a plant label stick. The stick must be big enough to reveal at least 4in above the rim of the cup when it is pushed up.

Help the children to draw a 4in snowman on stiff cardboard, one small circle sitting on top of another plus eyes, scarf, etc. Cut out the shape. Glue cotton wool over the body plus a thin strip of fabric over the scarf for added effect. Also glue cotton wool over the outside of the paper cup. Stick the snowman on the top part of the lolly stick. Push the stick down so that you can hold it under the cup. When it is pulled gently down, the snowman should "disappear" inside the "snowball" (cup) and when it is pushed up it will appear again. Should keep the peace for about ten minutes.

• Make a Christmas tree

Cut out two identical Christmas tree shapes (about 10in tall) from stiff cardboard. Decorate the shapes using the stencil on the right (just cut out the black areas, then place over the card and colour through the holes) — young children will need help. Then make a 5in slit in the top part of the tree and a 5in slit in the bottom part of the second tree. Other decorative ideas include cut-out shapes (presents, toys, stars, etc); milk-bottle tops, which you can make star-shapes out of before gluing on trees; glitter pens (available from stationers); cut-up pieces of tinsel so you can glue on tiny sparkly threads; ribbon rosette (from last year's bag of left-over wrappings) for the star at the top. Carefully lower the tree with the bottom slit over the tree with the top slit so the two join to form a tree with four sides. Should stand independently. If not, prop up surreptitiously.

• Make a present

Another way of pressing home the age-old homily that, despite the power of children's advertising, Christmas is for giving and not just receiving. Pot a hyacinth. Fill half a plastic flowerpot with potting soil. Help the child plant a bulb and then add another earth layer. Cover the pot with festive wrapping paper and tie a ribbon round top. Grannie will be thrilled. Cracker gift: Place a small bar of soap/scent/hanky, etc inside lavatory roll inner. Cut out an oblong of wrapping paper which is 6in wider than the roll. Wrap round and tie excess ends with a rubber band or thread. Then tie ribbon at each end to resemble a cracker. Should not be pulled.

Carol tape: Assemble children in choir (piano, recorder, beans in sealed yoghurt pots, etc) and lead them in a chorus of carols. Record on a tape-recorder. Makes a tear-jerking present for absent loved ones.

• Make gift tags

Cut out shapes (stocking, star, bell) from pliable cardboard — perhaps using the patterns illustrated — and cover in silver foil. Insert a hole (using a sharp pencil) and attach thread. Alternatively, cut out last year's Christmas cards and make a hole for the thread.

• Make your own cards

Father Christmas face card: fold a square of sugar paper in half. Draw a pencil outline of the face (copy from an old card or book). Cut out a similar shape from coloured paper/gold or silver foil and glue over the face outline. Do the same for Santa's hat, using red paper. Cut out tiny black dots from paper/foil for eyes and a larger red blob (or half a glace cherry) for the nose. Glue cotton wool on for the beard.

• Make a Christingle

Using a potato peeler, carefully gouge a hole out of the top of an orange (deep enough for a candle to sit in). Tie a red ribbon round the centre of the orange and fasten with a drawing-pin. Sit orange on a saucer. Push a candle into the hole. Stick raisins, glace cherries or olives on to four cocktail sticks and insert these round the candle. Use as a table centrepiece. The word "Christingle" means "Christ-Light" and dates back at least 300 years. The orange represents the world and the candle symbolises Christ.

• Cook St Nicholas letter biscuits (adult guidance needed)

Ingredients:
400g/1lb pastry
200g/8oz marzipan
milk

This is a Dutch children's tradition for St Nicholas's Day tomorrow. Set the oven to 200C/400F, gas mark 6. Make pastry (or buy, ready-made) and roll out thinly. Cut into strips, about 10cmx4cm. Put a little sugar on your hands and then roll marzipan into finger-sized "worms". Wrap each "worm" in a strip of pastry, gently pressing the edges together with a dab of milk to seal them. Gently form each roll into the shape of a letter. Some are easy, such as "U" or "S", while others will need to be made with more than one strip. Place letters on baking paper, leaving space between each one. Bake for 10-15 minutes in centre of oven. (Adapted from *The Lion Christmas Book*, compiled by Mary Batchelor, Lion Paperback, £3.95.)

• Make a window stencil

Take a window-pane-sized piece of cardboard or sugar paper. Draw a Christmas shape (bell, star, etc, or use the shapes, right, leaving a wide margin around it. Cut round the outline (so you can see through the shape) but the cardboard square outline remains. Fix the stencil on to the window with masking tape (to save paintwork) and spray, using Snow Spray (£1.25 from W.H. Smith). Alternatively, place sheet of cardboard underneath the stencil and spray on to that. Then fix the sheet with stencil outline on to the window pane.



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Whether it's sand and sunshine or the ski slopes of the Alps, Rachel Kelly suggests festive rental accommodation

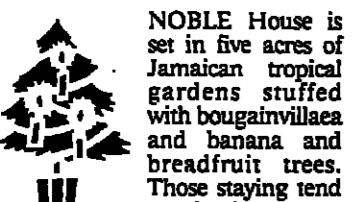


Winter wonderlands, worlds apart: rent a chalet in the French Alps for Christmas, or (right) Noble House in Jamaica



Winter wonderlands, worlds apart: rent a chalet in the French Alps for Christmas, or (right) Noble House in Jamaica

White Christmas for rent



NOBLE House is set in five acres of Jamaican tropical gardens stuffed with bougainvillea and banana and breadfruit trees. Those staying tend to relax in the 90F December heat: strolling the few minutes to the 500ft private beach, or dipping into the lapping pool in front of the rough-tiled, low-slung house, or sipping rum punch on the verandah. They can also, if they so desire, ask cook to prepare a Christmas pudding on Christmas Day instead of curried goat.

That is the joy of renting a house over Christmas: all the advantages of Christmas good cheer and festive fare with none of the miserable British weather. "And if you desire a white Christmas, the beach is whiter than white," says Edward Marquis, from Interna-

tional Chapters, which has Noble House on its books.

A white Christmas more traditionally demands the icy fingers of winter snow. The chances of that are remote. There has been snow on Christmas Day in London only five times this century, and in Manchester only nine times. It is far more likely to be a wet Christmas, thanks to global warming and the modern calendar.

Whether "white" means snow and skiing or a beach and sunshine, the price of renting a white Christmas could be more expensive this year because of our withdrawal from the exchange-rate mechanism. Rental prices in Austria, France and Switzerland are up by about 20 per cent in some cases; in the Caribbean, they are also up because currencies are linked to the US dollar. Post ERM, the pound has slumped from a rate of about \$2 to the pound, to about \$1.60.

Renting through a tour operator can make better sense than answering an ad in the Sunday papers. Peter Dyer, from Crystal Holidays, which has about 120 chalets to rent in the Alps, recommends dealing with a big company which may have been able to buy its currency before the withdrawal from the ERM, as he did. He has thus avoided having to add any extra currency surcharges to its rentals.

Larger firms are also likely to be able to negotiate better deals, since they rent throughout a season. These discounts will, in theory, be handed over to clients. Mr Dyer still has about 20 chalets for rent over Christmas and the New Year, the very highest week in the high season. He has just launched a brochure of special Christmas deals. Those prepared to

take pot-luck on resorts — who, for example, know they wish to rent a chalet in France but don't mind where — will be offered discounts of nearly £150: from £399 a person per week, including flights, to £259.

Chales & Hotels Unlimited has the Chateau de Cran chalet for rent, in Le Hameau de Flaine, up the valley from Flaine itself. It caters for those who prefer informality, says Marion Earsheen-Sullivan from the agency. "People can stock their own bar with duty free or enjoy a cup of tea when they want."

International Chapters also has a few of its 50 houses in the Caribbean for rent, including Noble House, at £5,350 a week for

eight people. (That does not include flights.) The price is roughly the same as last year had it not been for the effect of the end of the ERM, the price would have fallen, Mr Marquis says.

That might seem steep, but compare it to the price of renting Necker, Richard Branson's whole Virgin island, which costs \$8,250 a day (about £5,500). And compare it to the price of Jamaican hotels. Mr Marquis says: "Hotels which offer similar levels of service would charge rates of about £2,000 a week per person, though that does include flights. For eight adults, that means that a week would cost about £16,000."

Mr Marquis estimates that the food and drink bills staying at Noble House would be about half those of staying in a hotel such as

The Half Moon in Jamaica, or the Sand Piper in Barbados. "And you're more flexible. You can eat when you want, what you want. I think that's one of the main changes in rented accommodation. In the past, people thought of it as a self-catering holiday, which didn't sound much like a holiday. Now these houses are more like a private hotel. You have got everything to yourself: the swimming pool, the bar."

While the prices of such houses may have gone up because of the end of our membership of the ERM, the compensation is that more are available than in past years, especially once Christmas and New Year are over. Deals will hot up later in the year.

Supply of houses overseas has gone up as those who fail to sell in a

worldwide slump, especially across Europe, let instead, and buyers are scarce. "I've got an awful lot of my clients who are trying to sell and renting out meanwhile," says Mr Marquis, "but I've got practically nobody who wants to buy."

Demand for rented property in the Caribbean, dominated by Americans, has slumped with the American recession. In the Alps, bookings for skiing holidays are 12 per cent down this year compared to last, Mr Dyer says. Even Christmas week, the most popular week in the year, is less busy this year than last. Hurry and you could be enjoying Christmas pudding on the veranda.

International Chapters (071-722 0560); Crystal Holidays (081-339 5144); Chales and Hotels Unlimited (081-343 7339).

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Gun Green Oast
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Scotland: Snowdon House, Gifford, East Lothian. Detached Georgian residence in five acres of gardens and woodlands. Five bedrooms, bathroom and shower room and three reception rooms. Old mill pond and ice house. About £35,000 (Strutt & Parker, 031-226 2500).



Kent: Gun Green Oast, Hawkhurst. Converted oast house in 6.75 acres. Galleried landing with five bedrooms, three bathrooms (including master suite and guest suite), three reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room and two cloakrooms. About £320,000 (G.A. Town & Country, 0892 542711).



Devon: Somerton Lodge, Sidmouth. Grade II listed Regency villa in 1.6 acres. Five bedrooms, two bathrooms, three reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, cloakroom, cellars, double garage and outbuildings. About £315,000 (John D. Wood, 071-727 0705).

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Gift ideas with a distinctly French flavour
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Be guided: *Buying & Restoring Old*

THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale goes out on a dark, stormy night; Martin Hoyle looks in on a dark, stormy life

Magical Noh holds Bard

The Tempest
Barbican

Last week, Michael Bogdanov and his English Shakespeare Company presented London with a *Tempest* set in a rubbish dump somewhere downstream of the Isle of Dogs, thereby depriving the play of all its magic and much of its sense. This week, it has fallen to a foreigner, Yukio Ninagawa, to restore those qualities and bring them to our National Theatre. His production of *The Tempest* occurs on Sado, a remote island off the coast of his native Japan; but it is a place that turns out to be several thousand miles nearer the imaginary mid-Mediterranean, and half-a-billion closer to the heart of Shakespeare's most generous, forgiving play.

Sado has plenty of associations for Ninagawa and his countrymen. It was traditionally a place of exile and it is the island to which one of the founders of the Noh Theatre, Zeami, was banished. It is a suitable enough setting, then, for what the programme calls "a link between the history and cultures of Japan and Britain". Even without a simultaneous translator, it is clear that Shakespeare's text is played pretty much verbatim: yet the style veers from something not unakin to Elizabethan-realistic to Noh itself.

For what it is worth, the pretence is that one of Sado's many Noh companies is performing *The Tempest* under the direction of Haruhiko Joh's Prospero. No doubt some parallel between conjury and theatrical creation is implied. But in practice it seems mainly to mean that the scene-shifters and the supporting actors



From the Bard to London via Japan: a suitably atmospheric scene from Yukio Ninagawa's production of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*

remain visible throughout. Some of them flail away at drums before the play begins, their faces hidden by devil's masks, and then others run onstage to create the first of many fire-stage-effects. Suddenly a glow emerges from the roughly timbered hut in which Prospero lives, followed by a shakken quilt and a falling blue cloth; and there, simply yet powerfully, is Shakespeare's very own shipwreck.

The Noh influence is most evident in a splendid masque scene, with tall china-faced figures undulating and chanting in exotic

but exotically patterned robes, and in the ballyhoo comic sequences. Goro Daimon's Stefano turns out to be a great, shiny hulk, naked but for his apron and a chef's hat; Kenichi Ishii's Trinculo looks like an oriental Easter egg or Japanese Humpty Dumpty; and Hiroki Okawa's Caliban sports wild spiky hair and a long fish's tail, creating the impression of a punk surgeon. They go in for leaping, tumbling and loud comic display in contrast with Alonso, Gonzalo and the lords, whose speech and conduct is in keeping with the formal modern

suits beneath their long, colourful cloaks.

To be honest, the contrast between East and West struck me as too extreme here; but there could be no such reservations about the central performance. Joh's Prospero exudes gravity and melancholy power, and has come up with an interpretation distinctively his own. The wrongs he has suffered enrage him, so much so that he makes to strike Yoji Matsuda's delicate Ariel with his staff when he gently recommends mercy. But then and thereafter he forces him-

self to lose face a difficult process, maybe even a heroic one, given the pain that has all along been expressively etched onto it.

That left me feeling how relatively easily modern British actors playing Prospero tend to forgive their enemies; how little they struggle against instincts that the Elizabethans must have found overwhelming. Here, elsewhere, Ninagawa and his Japanese company clearly have something to teach us.

B.N.

Mahler in his own milieu

CLASSICAL RECORDS

Some like to think that Mahler's Sixth Symphony bears the scars of his own harassed professional existence at the Vienna Opera. Others prefer to see it as a musical document set to change the face of symphonic art as the century turned. Whatever may be Christoph von Dohnányi's view, he makes a conscious choice to present his performance (Dec 4-6 240-2) in an illuminating historical perspective by twinning it with Schoenberg's Five Orchestral Pieces, from 1909, and Webern's *Sommerwind* (1904). No similar coupling exists in the catalogue.

Schoenberg's Expressionistic miniatures, with their experiments in controlled improvisation, do for the ear very much what his friend Kandinsky's canvases do for the eye: their clarity and polychromatic panache make Webern's vignettes seem a fine siesta idyll with only the most subtle of hints of the shape of things to come.

HILARY FINCH

vi's Mahler, too, is on the sober side. For the composer, this symphony was "something such as the world has not heard before"; yet we hear less of the shock of the new and more the loving, specific reconstruction of the accepted.

This is not to diminish Jarvi's performance, but to indicate its scale and its priorities. With the clarity of its quiet, detailed passages and its delicate balancing of textures, the symphony becomes more a magic picture-book, less a Nietzschean drama of the soul.

When Nietzsche's words actually appear, Linda Fionne's voice comes into focus from the very heart of the orchestra. Her mezzo-soprano has the dark, true alto range so necessary for these songs. There is a trace of a raw wobble when the voice is under pressure, but this is later artfully used to focus the anger, even the horror, within the pain of the *Kindertotenlieder*.

Number one with a bullet - or a knife

Ice Cube grows rich rapping everything that offends him — most of the world, it seems

ROCK RECORDS

This week, the American rapper Ice Cube achieved what neither Madonna nor R.E.M. were able to do. His new album *The Predator* (4th & Broadway 514 351) entered the *Billboard* US chart at No. 1, finally toppling Garth Brooks.

Barely a week after release, Cube's album is already close to registering its millionth sale, an astonishing performance by any standards, and one which seems curiously at odds with the rhetoric on the liner notes which reminds us of "white America's continued commitment to the silence and oppression of black men".

Cube, who in the past has been far from silent about his unpleasant views on a range of subjects, is naturally full of self-righteous fury in the wake of the Los Angeles riots, although in the accompanying press release he confesses that "I loved... every bit of it".

With its grim catalogue of songs glorifying murder ("Now I Gotta Getcha"), riot ("We Had To Tear This M.F. Up") and misogyny ("Check Yo Self"), "Don't Trust 'Em", you name it, *The Predator* is the perfect distillation of a gangland culture that has descended into a morsel of mindless violence and unchecked machismo, where any sort of homicidal sentiment may legitimately be expressed whether or not it is dressed up as a response to the unwavering racism of American society, and where no insult is too foul-mouthed, especially if it is directed against a woman or, better still, a homosexual.

And yet there is a highly stylised and self-regarding quality to all this gritty urban realism that suggests Cube may be peddling a line in wet dream violence that is not so far removed in tone from



Ice Cube: taking violence off the streets and into the studio

Madonna's fantasies about sex. The album is clogged with gloating references to the firestorm of media controversy provoked by his own pronouncements in the past, while the unrelenting expressions of rage and hatred are peculiarly one-dimensional, almost cartoon-like in places.

The song is taken from NIN's new album *Fixed* (TVT 514 321), which features "various interpretations" of songs that have already featured on their Top 20 album *Broken* (TVT/Interscope 514 147), released earlier this year. An essential companion to the earlier album, *Fixed* is even more carefully crafted, the sounds of pain, damage and destruction tweaked and elevated to an exquisite pitch of artistic expression.

As an illumination of the dark side of human nature this has considerably greater resonance than the boudoir posturing of Ice Cube.

DAVID SINCLAIR

In sickness and in hell

Playing the Wife
Ustinov Studio, Bath

I think there are two of you," says the playwright August Strindberg to his leading actress. "One of you wants to pretend nothing is going on."

Ronald Hayman's play, which had its premiere at Brentford last month and is currently on tour, dwells much on duality: the love and hate found in one relationship, the rational and irrational in one personality; the difference between reality and truth and how they clash when distilled, or muddled, by the theatrical process.

Strindberg hated women, married actresses, and was driven mad by them. A tortured misogyny permeates his work. Rehearsing with him must have been unrefined at the best of times; and when the self-obsessed dramatist confronted a player fanatically devoted to a truth that she perceived differently to him, something — perhaps the sanity of both of them — had to give.

The framework for Hayman's play is such a rehearsal. Harriet Bosse, a young Norwegian actress, becomes increasingly unhappy at depicting a character based on Strindberg's former wife.

Parallels extend to the unexpected marriage between the grizzled playwright and his new leading lady. Scenes of deception, disillusion and recrimination in his play echo against instincts that the Elizabethans must have found overwhelming. Here, elsewhere, Ninagawa and his Japanese company clearly have something to teach us.

Playwright and actress confront one another in the life versus art clash. She meets the model for her character and resents the unfairness of Strindberg's portrayal. He claims both subjective and objective

justification as it suits him — both first-hand knowledge and the audience's right to change the facts. Heads he wins, tails everyone else loses.

Whatever the historical truth, Harriet's sudden marriage to the playwright never makes sense artistically: it is a case of life imitating art, bad art. And as Julia Ormond looks and sounds unrelentingly modern and emancipated, Harriet's character becomes both a proto-feminist and an irritating exponent of Stanislavsky's method before its time.

She excels when finally quivering with rebellious fury, but until then never gets an exasperating character into complete focus.

Furthermore, the play's treatment of the nature of theatre and its casualties is weakened by the occasional cliché. Strindberg, the omnivorous creator, jots down striking lines from an emotional scene for later use in a play. The plain but devoted dogsboddy (beautifully played by Jacqueline Morgan) dissolves into tears at her loneliness.

Ultimately, Tim Pigott-Smith's production depends on Barry Foster's portrait of Strindberg, a magnificent combination of nightmare neuroses and brisk professional practicality, selfishness and sensitivity.

Foster has the look of a man whose innards are knotted with intensity, and deploys the frustrated energy of a trapped wasp. The dance of defiance he executes on stage is a dance of death.

M.H.

Satchmo and much more

IMAGINE JAZZ RECORDS

the Pasadena Civic Auditorium

more imposing line-up. At this stage Armstrong still had the services of Earl Hines and Jack Teagarden, who joined forces on a stunning version of "Body and Soul".

By the time of the second recording, made at the Crescendo Club in Hollywood, Hines and Teagarden had departed, to be replaced by the impish Trummy Young and Billy Kyle, who may have been a less colourful soloist than Hines but was an accomplished rhythm player.

Barney Bigard's instantly recognisable clarinet is present on both dates. So too is Velma Middleton, the beefy singer-cum-vaudevillian whose contribution was frowned upon by many contemporary critics.

There are, it must be admitted, one or two lapses in taste, but the overwhelming impression is one of a masterful all-round entertainer surrounded by musicians who were perfectly attuned to his needs.

The first concert, taped at

CLIVE DAVIS



Genius at rest: Louis Armstrong enjoys the horn of plenty

ORANGERIE ITALIANA 1992



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A Waterside luncheon

□ Champagne reception

□ Six-course lunch with five classic wines

□ Table talk by Michel Roux

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Your welcome starts with a reception at which Champagne Henriot Réserve Baron Philippe de Rothschild 1981 will be served. The superb six-course lunch which follows, created and prepared by M. Roux himself, will be accompanied by five classic wines from the House of Baron Philippe de Rothschild.

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NELLY MIRGAUD & ANDREA MONTRUBIO mezzo sop & soprano
BONNIE RICHARD soprano

ENGLISH CHAMBER CHOIR introduces JOHN ANNS

LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA JAMES LOCKHART cond

£9.50, £11.50, £13.50, £16.50, £18.50, £21.50

GLORY OF CHRISTMAS
LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA
PHILIP SIMMS conductor
THOMAS TALLIS CHOIR

SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER at 3 pm

A feast of traditional and seasonal items inc.

BACH Opening Chorus from *Christmas Oratorio*; Air on a G String; SCHUBERT Ave Maria; MOZART Alleluia from *Requiem*; HANDEL Trumpet Voluntary; STANLEY Trumpet Voluntary; HANDEL (Opening Chorus); The Service from Messiah; Let the Bright Seraphim; BERLIOZ Requiem; Farewell from *L'Enfant du Christ*; SCHUBERT Ave Maria; Carols for Choirs; Boys Choir & Audience; ERIAN DAVIES soprano; SOUTHDOWN BOYS CHOIR CRUSIAN STEELLE-PERKINS trumpet

£7.50, £10.50, £14.50, £16.50, £19.50, £21.50

BOXING DAY at 8 pm

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

MENDELSSOHN Hebrides Ov. *Fingal's Cave*

HANDEL Music for the Royal Fireworks

RACHMANINOV Piano Concerto No.2

DVOŘÁK Symphony No.9 from the *New World*

JAMES BLAIR conductor

SIMON MULLIGAN piano

£9.50, £11.50, £13.50, £17.50, £19.50, £22.50

SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER at 3 pm

THE SNOWMAN

Narrated and presented by ALED JONES

Howard Blake, composer and creator of The Snowman, conducts the traditional Christmas celebration of the enchanting children's classic with Saint-Saëns' delightful *Carnival of the Animals*. Seasonal songs for boy soprano and audience.

ARTHUR DAVIES tenor, CAPITAL ARTS THEATRE CHOIR CRUSIAN STEELLE-PERKINS trumpet

£7.50, £10.50, £13.50, £16.50, £19.50, £21.50

MONDAY 28 DECEMBER at 7.30 pm

MOZART IN COSTUME

Don Giovanni Overture Eine kleine Nachtmusik

Piano Concerto No.21, K467 Clarinet Concerto

Symphony No.40

WREN ORCHESTRA HOWARD BLAKE cond

ANTHONY MELLOR boy soprano

REBECCA HARRIS soprano

£8.50, £11.50, £15.50

Children under £5 £1.50, £5, £10, £20

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

"The Legend Lives On"

A Christmas concert featuring original arrangements of the great Glenn Miller: *In the Mood*, *Tuxedo Junction*, *Little Brown Jug*, *Chattanooga Choo Choo*, *St. Louis Blues*, *Moonglow Serenade* & special Christmas carols.

White Christmas, *It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas*, *It's Happening in San Valley* & *Winter Wonderland*

JOHN WATSON cond/rp, SPECIAL GUEST TONY MANSELL, DONNA CANALE, THE MOONLIGHT SERENADES, THE UPTOWN HALL GANG

£9.50, £11.50, £13.50, £15, £16.50

MONDAY 28 DECEMBER at 7.30 pm

THE FOUR SEASONS

An Evening of Baroque Masterpieces

BACH Brandenburg Concerto No.3

PACHELBEL Canon ALBINONI Adagio

BAYDN Trumpet Concerto

VIVALDI The Four Seasons

CITY OF LONDON SINFONIA IAN WATSON cond

ANDREW WATKINSON violin/director

MAURICE MURPHY trumpet

£9.50, £11.50, £17.50, £19.50, £22.50

TUESDAY 29 DECEMBER at 7.30 pm

OPERA GALA NIGHT

with DENNIS O'NEILL

The international star returns with his eclectic favourites inc.

Verdi, Wagner, & Tchaikovsky's *Chorus*, *Aida* & *Grand March*, *Masnago's Intermezzo*, *Mamma mia vincere* & *genero*, *Gounod's Faust*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *La Bohème*, *Vasco*, *Verdi's Rigoletto*, *Berlioz' Toccata*, *Massenet's Werther*, *Verdi's Nabucco*, *Verdi's Aida*, *Verdi's Armida* & *Vasal D'Avila*, *Massenet's Werther* in quale trine morbide, *Intermezzo*, *Tannhäuser*, *Nestus* & *Perseus*, *Puccini's La Gioconda*, *Cleto* & *mar*

SUZANNE MURPHY piano

LONDON CONCERT SOCIETY

FAIRFAX TRUMPET FROM THE BAND OF THE WELSH GUARDS

LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA GARETH JONES cond

£10.50, £13.50, £17.50, £19.50, £22.50

WEDNESDAY 30 DECEMBER at 7.30 pm

TCHAIKOVSKY GALA NIGHT

A celebration of the great composer on the eve of his centenary year

Polonaise & Waltz from *Eugene Onegin*

Piano Conc. No.1 • Fantasy Ov. Romeo & Juliet

Andante Cantabile • Capriccio Italien

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA JOSE SEREBRIER cond LUCY PARHAM piano

£9.50, £11.50, £13.50, £17.50, £19.50, £22.50

SUNDAY 3 JANUARY at 7.30 pm

BEETHOVEN

Overture, Coriolan

Piano Concerto No.5, *Emperor*Symphony No.6, *Pastoral*

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA ADRIAN LEAPER conductor PIERS LANE piano

£9.50, £11.50, £13.50, £17.50, £19.50, £22.50

CINEMAS

CURZON MAYFAIR Curzon

£1.71 405 8655 Exclusive pre-

views, *Howard's End* & *Rebecca*

HOWARD'S END (CC)

REBECCA (CC)

£1.71 405 8655 Previews

£9.50, £11.50, £13.50, £17.50, £19.50, £22.50

MONDAY 30 DECEMBER at 7.30 pm

RAYMOND GUBRAY presents at the BARRICAN

Box Office/CC 071-538 8891

TONIGHT at 8 pm

ELGAR

Cockalorum Overture

Pomp & Circumstance March No.4

Carlo Concerto

Exiguae Variations

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

CHRISTOPHER GAYFORD cond NORAY WELSH cello

£10.50, £13.50, £17.50, £19.50, £22.50

SATURDAY NEXT 13 DECEMBER at 8 pm

OPERA GALA NIGHT

A TRIBUTE TO JENNY LIND

This tribute to the "Swedish Nightingale" Jenny Lind inc. excerpts from Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *Die Fledermaus*, *Figaro*, *Bellini's Norma* & *La Sonnambula*, Donizetti's *L'elisir d'Amore*, Rossini's *La gazza ladra* & *Tancredi*.

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NELLY MIRGAUD & AND

BBC1

7.00 Champion the Wonder Horse (b/w) (I) (2659495) 7.25 News and weather (7953143)
 7.30 Spider. Musical cartoon (I) (s) (4811037) 7.35 Animal World. Nature series with Derek Griffiths (s) (7653785) 7.45 Quick Draw McGraw. Cartoon western (I) (4809292) 7.50 Littl Bits. Cartoon fun with the forest pines (I) (7331308) 8.15 Chuclevision. More madness and mayhem with Paul and Barry (s) (2642230) 8.35 Buckley O'Hare. Animated adventures with the floppy-eared superhero (I) (147211)
 9.00 Going Live! Sarah Greene and Philip Schofield are joined by Adam Woodyatt and June Brown of *EastEnders*. WWF wrestling star Randy Savage and Marty Mark (s) (78846018) 12.12 Weather (1320650)
 12.15 Grandstand introduced by Steve Rider. The line-up is (subject to alteration): 12.28 Football: Bob Wilson and Gary Lineker look forward to the weekend's action, 12.55, 1.25 and 2.00 Racing from Chepstow: the Arlington Premier Chase (1.00), the Jack Brown Handicap Chase (1.30), and the Rehearsal Chase (2.05); 1.10 News; 1.15 and 1.40 Boxing: Commonwealth middleweight champion Richie Woodhall takes on Arthur Servando; 2.15 Snooker: Men's Downhill Championship from Val-d'Isere, France; 2.55 and 3.35 Rugby League live coverage of the second round of the Regal Trophy between Warrington and Bradford Northern from Wilderspool; 3.45 Football half-times; 4.45 Final Score (3970306)
 5.05 News with Moira Stuart Weather (2891650)
 5.15 Regional news and sport (9411430) Wales: (to 5.50) Wales on Saturday
 5.20 Dad's Army. Arthur Lowe, John Le Mesurier and Clive Dunn lead the defence of Wartington-on-Sea against Hitler. Freddie Trueman makes a guest appearance when the Wartons challenge the Home Guard to a cricket match (I) (Ceefax) (8572265)
 5.50 Big Break. Jim Davidson and referee John Virgo are joined by Stephen Hendry, who is challenged by Peter Ebdon and Darren Morgan. (Ceefax) (s) (1495050)
 6.20 Noel's House Party. Bill Owen, Peter Sallis, Ian Smith and Anne Charleston join Noel Edmunds, and Cheryl Baker wins a "Gotcha Oscar" (s) (673124)
 7.15 Bruce Forsyth's Generation Game. Four more couples compete for the prizes on the conveyor belt. With Rosemary Ford. (Ceefax) (s) (254334)
 8.15 Casualty. Gritty medical drama set in the accident and emergency department of a city hospital. Julian's and Sandra's affair is exposed. (Ceefax) (s) (276768)
 9.05 News with Martyn Lewis (Ceefax) Sport and weather (502747)



Stand-up comedy: Silverman, Kiser, McCarthy (9.25pm)

9.25 Film: Weekend at Bernie's (1989). Inventive black comedy starring Andrew McCarthy and Jonathan Silverman as insurance company employees who become implicated in the murder of their boss (Terry Kiser) and try to pretend he is still alive. Directed by Ted Kotcheff (Ceefax) (s) (81136476)
 11.00 Match of the Day. Desmond Lynam introduces highlights of two Premier league matches (s) (595650)
 12.15am Film: Gymkata (1985) starring Kurt Thomas as a martial arts expert who travels to a strange country on a secret mission. Directed by Robert Clouse, but a feeble echo of his Bruce Lee movie *Enter the Dragon* (731341)
 1.45 Weather (7703761)

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SATELLITE

SKY ONE

6.00pm Danger Day (1982) 6.30 Elephant Roy (30940) 7.00 Fun Factory (3914852)
 12.00 Barnaby Jones (1972) 1.00pm Film: Eddie Star (24785) 3.40 Cartoons (87655)
 4.00 The Duke of Hazzard (17340) 5.00
 11.00 Saturday Night Live. Hosts: David Knopfler and Wannerman (19789) 7.00 Top Ten (401513) 8.00 Unsolved Mysteries (389503)
 9.00 Cops (I) (51349) 9.30 Cops II (99261)
 10.00 Saturday Night Live (593141) 11.00 Hu-
 Star (6076) 12.00 Skyscraper

SKY NEWS

Twenty-four hour news service
SKY MOVIES+
 6.00am Showcase (69230)
 8.00 Vanishing Wilderness American
 A+ (date document) (48501)

BBC2

8.00 Open University: Science Preparatory Maths: Graphs (5423292)
 8.15 Open Advice: Becoming a Student (2631124) 8.40 Suite Dreams (1442766)
 9.05 Film: King's Row (1941, b/w). A polished saga of early century America featuring Ronald Reagan in one of his best roles, as a young man who falls in love with a beautiful girl from the wrong side of the tracks. Directed by Sam Wood (41158132)
 11.05 The Folk-Tales of England. Kevin Crossley-Holland tells the story of the dragon which caused the Lambton family to be cursed for generations (I) (3795143)
 11.25 Bird's Eye View. Sir John Betjeman surveys the varying homes of the English (I) (1466747)
 12.15 Film: Stagecoach (1933, b/w). The classic John Ford western which finally brought stardom to John Wayne. He plays a fugitive who joins a group of stagecoach passengers on a perilous journey through Indian territory. (Ceefax) (443327)
 1.50 Network East. Includes a look at the work of designer Wendell Roden who draws inspiration from the poetry of the Dalai Lama (s) (37698921)
 2.20 Tashihuan. Episode seven of the 13-part Pakistani drama. In Urdu with English subtitles (4275211)
 3.00 The Ice Puppy. A documentary following the harp seal's struggle for survival (5958018)
 3.10 Film: The More the Merrier (1945, b/w)
 3.30 CHOICE: This series of American motor torpedo boats in the Pacific during the second world war is one of the less recorded films in the John Ford canon yet it contains some of his finest and most characteristic work. It is far from the traditional Hollywood war film. There is glory but glory in defeat, not victory. There are stirring battle scenes but the emphasis is on the men as human beings, their courage and their fear. It is a theme touched with poetry. Robert Montgomery plays the commander, with John Wayne as his second-in-command, and the Ford stock company is represented by Ward Bond and Russell Simpson. Among many notable scenes is one in the hospital where the men gather round the bedside of a dying comrade. It is beautifully judged and played, rich in emotion but never sentimental (5958574)
 5.20 *Sentencing*. News from the House of Commons Select Committee. (Ceefax) (8563211). Wales: Wales in Westminster
 5.50 Polo to Pole. The continuation of Michael Palin's journey from North to South (I) (Ceefax) (327308)
 6.40 News with Moira Stuart. Sport and weather (779476)
 6.55 Neil Kinnock: The Lost Leader. The former leader of the Labour party talks to David Dimbleby. (Ceefax) (s) (615921)
 7.35 Music on Two: Song of the Night. The life and music of the Polish composer Karol Szymanowski (3903588)
 8.35 Have I Got News for You. Jo Brand and Nell Kinnock join Paul Merton, Ian Hislop and Angus Deayton (I) (s) (404230)



Tragic couple: Gemma Jones and Anton Rodgers (9.05pm)

9.05 Performance: After the Dance
 ● CHOICE: Here's a novelty, a play by Terence Rattigan which has apparently not been performed since its original London run in 1938. It was poorly received by critics and public and Rattigan virtually disowned it. Perhaps with the second world war looming theatregoers were not in the mood for the downbeat theme. *After the Dance* is set in idle rich London and is about a couple of former bright young things (Anton Rodgers and Gemma Jones) who are now neither bright nor young. Their 15-year-old marriage is a sham and both are heavily into drink. Enter a per 20-year-old (Mogen Stubbs) who falls in love with the husband and tries to put him back on the straight and narrow. Despite some bottle comedy this is a bleak and tragic piece which offers no easy solutions. Stuart Burge's production does it full justice (4743582)
 11.00 Film: The Watchmaker of St Paul (1973). The season of classic French films continues with this Simonon tale of a watchmaker (Philippe Noiret) who learns that his son is wanted for murder. A distinguished debut for director Bertrand Tavernier (61314)
 12.45am Saturday Night Live. Actress Catherine O'Hara hosts the variety-comedy show (6411952). Ends at 1.20

ITV LONDON

6.00 ITV-am (5851143)
 9.25 What's Up Doc? Andy Crane, Pat Sharp and Yvette Fielding are joined by Dermi Minogue and Les Hill (s) (34872768)
 11.00 A Conversation with Magic. Basketball star Magic Johnson related from the Los Angeles Lakers after learning that he had contracted the HIV virus. He talks about Aids to an audience of children aged eight to 14 (3495)
 12.00 The ITV Chart Show featuring Boney M performing "Mary's Boy Child" (s) (640808)
 1.00 News with Dermot Murnaghan. Weather (11758898) 1.05 LWT News (11757658)
 1.10 European Champions' League Special. Ian St John and Jimmy Greaves present the second programme in their new series highlighting the battle for places in this season's European Cup final (35511414)
 1.40 Snooker. Coverage of the first round matches of the Coaste World Matchplay Championship from the Dome in Doncaster (97789389)
 4.10 Dido's. Prehistoric puppet show. When the chief elder dies, Earfin finds himself as one of the candidates to take over as leader (s) 4.40 News with Dermot Murnaghan. Weather (3558233) 5.00 LWT News (5631637)
 5.05 Cartoon Time (2893018)
 5.15 Beverly Hills, 90210. Teenage Angst with the impossibly lovely pupils of a California high school. Dylan becomes involved with a fellow AA member; and Jim gets hooked on karaoke. (Ceefax) (s) (7975389)
 6.05 Gladiators. Final of the energetic high-tech version of *It's a Knockout* introduced by Ulrika Jonsson and John Nettleton. (Ceefax) (s) (5822068)
 7.05 Blind Date. Ciara Black plays Cupid to more contestants with romantic ambitions and discovers how last week's winners fared. (Ceefax) (s) (428056)



The best of British humour: host Jonathan Ross (8.05pm)

8.05 British Comedy Awards 1992 introduced by Jonathan Ross live from the London Television Centre. Neil Kinnock, Margi Clarke and Michael Elphick are among the celebrities who will be bestowing honours on the winners (79745211)
 10.05 Beadle's About. Compilation of some of the more elaborate practical jokes Jeremy Beadle has played on unsuspecting members of the public (555124)
 10.35 Snooker. The concluding frames of today's first-round matches of the Coaste World Matchplay Championship from the Dome in Doncaster (60122563)
 12.30am Almost Famous. The people at a party 20 years earlier reunite under different circumstances (3148)
 1.30 The Big E. Magazine programme for and about young Europeans (s) (825761)
 2.35 Indy Car Racing 1991. Toyota Montero Grand Prix (80438)
 3.35 New Music. Pop videos and interviews (7658544)
 4.35 The Hit Man and Her. Paul Waterman and Michaela Strachan with the latest news from the club scene (s) (4498189)
 5.30 ITN Morning News (64761). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Heathcliff. Animated adventures (I) (1224018) 6.25 Eurelora's Castle. Music and cartoons for the under-fives (I) (5135327) 6.55 Kideo. Gravity. 13-part guide to life (Teletext) (s) (1113563) 7.25 High 5. Freestyle skiing (2645222) 7.55 Trans World Sport. International sporting news (4130698)
 9.00 News summary (4297785) 9.15 Racing: The Morning Line (561765)
 10.00 Kabbalah. Men's final between Punjab and Delhi (I) (Teletext) (s) (81650)
 10.30 Gazzetta Football Italia. Paul Gascoigne takes his weekly look at the Italian league (601018)
 11.30 American Football. A look at some of the important news stories of November. With signing and subs (40230)
 12.00 Show On. News Watch. A look at some of the important news stories of November. With signing and subs (40230)
 12.30 Songs and Stories. Paul Gascoigne takes his weekly look at some of his favourite film songs (76143)
 1.00 The Friend. Russian animation (40526582)
 1.15 Channel 4 Racing from Sandown. Brough Scott introduces the following: Henry VIII Novices' Chase (1.25); Thames Valley Eggs Novices' Handicap Hurdle (1.55); William Hill Handicap Hurdle (2.30); Mitsubishi Shogun Tingle Creek Trophy (3.00) (76511245)
 3.30 Film: Siege of the Saxon (1983). Medieval romp starring Ronald Lewis as an outlaw who saves King Arthur (Mark Dignam) from the treacherous Edmund of Cornwall (Ronald Howard) and wins the girl (Janet Scott). Directed by Nathan Scott (79124)
 5.05 Brookside. Omnibus edition (I). (Teletext) (s) (3038105)
 6.30 Right to Reply. Viewer John Healy examines the BBC's new proposals for accountability and discusses them with BBC governor Sir Kenneth Bowcott. (Teletext) (s) (656)
 7.00 A Week in Politics. Three conservative MPs with different views on Europe debate what each wants to see come out of next week's summit in Edinburgh (1211)
 8.00 The Big Battalions. Brian Cox and Jane Lapotaire star in the drama about faith and fanaticism. The arrival of an American film star leads Martha and David into dangerous territory (I) (Teletext) (7259)
 9.00 The Big Picture. John Gielgud and the Royal Shakespeare Company in a production of *Measure for Measure* (Ceefax) (s) (3038105)
 10.00 The Word (I) (s) (938032)
 12.45 Film: Plan Nine From Outer Space (1953, b/w). Tatty science fiction tale, once voted the worst film of all time, about a man fighting against space aliens who raise the dead to fight their battles. Directed by Edward D. Wood Jr (7905815). Ends at 4.05



A jokey message on safe sex: Morris Gleitzman (9.00pm)

9.00 Sex
 ● CHOICE: A Channel 4 contribution for Aids Awareness Week is a spoof documentary from Australia in which a fictional interviewer (Morris Gleitzman) asks fictional young people about their sex lives and uses the format to drive home a message about the importance of wearing condoms. The programme is clearly based on the theory that the best way to preach safe sex is not to be stuffy about it. Amid the propaganda jokes abound, some of them very funny. One is about the man who was so embarrassed about asking a chemist for condoms that he bought the shop. While applauding the point of the show, traditionalists may baulk at its assumption that for today's youngsters falling into bed is as frequent and natural as brushing one's teeth. There is no suggestion that sex has anything to do with love, and still less with marriage (7495)
 10.00 Film: Les Valseuses (1974) starring Gérard Depardieu and Patrick Dewaere as two delinquents joy-riding their way across France and taking everything life has to offer. An exuberant, amoral film, directed by Bertrand Blier. In French with English subtitles (35434747)
 12.15am The Blood Run Free. Spoof medical soap. Mrs Good meets a stranger and Dr Lovechild unveils his new matron (5593)
 12.45 The Happening. Joie Holland is joined by Skint Video, Courtney Pine, Lou Rawls, John Moloney, Kit Hollerbach and Jeremy Hardy (s) (941948)
 1.45 The Word (I) (s) (938032)
 2.45 Film: Plan Nine From Outer Space (1953, b/w). Tatty science fiction tale, once voted the worst film of all time, about a man fighting against space aliens who raise the dead to fight their battles. Directed by Edward D. Wood Jr (7905815). Ends at 4.05

0795243. 2.10 Snooker (1541652) 4.35-4.40 Goal of the Week (529592) 5.05-5.15 Saturday Sport (2939318) 12.30 Film: Women in Chains (5614671) 1.51 Ian McEwan: The Heat (2719322) 2.00 The Hit Man and Her (23708) 4.00 Video (5614671) 4.30-5.00 The Big E (75303)

RTE 1
 Starts: 12.15pm The Marine (3860073) 1.15 The Campbells (55605143) 1.45 Softball (5135327) 2.00 The Happening (5614671) 2.45 The Big Picture (76511245) 3.00 Letters on the Phone (3263275) 3.30 Film: A Day at the Races (3423027) 3.50 Euro (5225011) 6.00 The Angels (5657569) 6.01 News (7974521) 6.45 The Word (7905815) 7.00 News (7974521) 7.30 Concert for Somalia (5656592) 12.30pm News (4381051) 12.35 A Prayer at Bedtime (4380222) 12.40 Close

RTE 2
 Starts: 9.00am Children's Programmes (3263275) 12.30pm Film: Cup Fever (8077174) 1.25 The Big Picture (5656592) 1.45 Softball (5135327) 1.50-1.55 The Central Match Goats (2939318) 2.10 Film: Women in Chains (5614671) 2.30 Film: The Hit Man and Her (23708) 4.00 Video (5614671) 4.30-5.00 The Big E (75303)

RTE 3
 Starts: 12.15pm The Marine (3860073) 1.15 The Campbells (55605143) 1.45 Softball (5135327) 2.00 The Happening (5614671) 2.45 The Big Picture (76511245) 3.00 Letters on the Phone (3263275) 3.30 Film: A Day at the Races (3423027) 3.50 Euro (5225011) 6.00 The Angels (5657569) 6.01 News (7974521) 6.45 The Word (7905815) 7.00 News (7974521) 7.30 Concert for Somalia (5656592) 12.30pm News (4381051) 12.35 A Prayer at Bedtime (4380222) 12.40 Close

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RADIO 3
 Starts: 9.00am Open University: Access to Maths — Countdown to Equations 6.55 Weather (3855121) 6.55 Weather (3855122) 7.00 News Briefing, incl 7.00 The Farming Year (3855123) 7.00 Weather (3855124) 7.00 The Farming Year (3855125) 7.00 Weather (3855126) 7.00 Weather (3855127) 7.00 Weather (3855128) 7.00 Weather (3855129) 7.00 Weather (3855130) 7.00 Weather (3855131) 7.00 Weather (3855132) 7.00 Weather (3855133) 7.00 Weather (3855134) 7.00 Weather (3855135) 7.00 Weather (3855136) 7.00 Weather (3855137) 7.00 Weather (3855138) 7.00 Weather (3855139) 7.00 Weather (3855140) 7.00 Weather (3855141) 7.00 Weather (3855142) 7.00 Weather (3855143) 7.00 Weather (3855144) 7.00 Weather (3855145) 7.00 Weather (3855146) 7.00 Weather (3855147) 7.00 Weather (3855148) 7.00 Weather (38

BBC1

7.30 Film: *Badman's Territory* (1946, b/w) Routine Western starring Randolph Scott as a sheriff on the trail of Frank and Jesse James. Directed by Tim Whelan (93403188)
 9.05 News and Morning Advent Calendar Anne Diamond and Nick Owen present a musical appreciation of the Salvation Army's work. (5682235) 9.10 News and weather (5684544)
 9.15 Morning News. The second of four Special Advent services, Pam Rhodes joins the Community of Sisters at the Priory of Our Lady of Good Counsel in Sussex (s) (5432416)
 10.00 See Hear! Ruth Craig and Sarah Luttemore, who are both deaf, crossed the Atlantic Ocean in a 72ft ketch. With signing and subtitles (s) (s) (7789234)
 10.45 *Italiennes* (The) The sixth in a ten-part Italian language and culture course (9022308) Wales: *Careening Ahead*
 11.00 *Careering Ahead*. Helping servicemen returning to civilian life (1438) Wales: 11.15-12.30 See You Sunday
 11.30 *Mosaic*. The last in a three-part series dealing with racial Paranoia (2167)
 12.00 *Advice Shop*. Welfare rights magazine (23780)
 12.30 *Country File* with John Craven (2320383) Wales: *Down to Earth* 12.55 Weather (568583-38)
 1.00 News (1172382) 1.05 *On the Record* (8452696)
 2.00 *EastEnders* (Omnibus edition) (s) (Ceefax) (s) (21047)
 3.00 *El Dorado* (s) (Ceefax) (s) (45244)
 3.30 *Smash Hits* (Folkmusic) Perry, Simon Mayo presents the pop awards show live from Olympia (s) (22973)
 5.00 *Cartoons*. Bugs Bunny triple bill (408525)
 5.20 *The Clothes Show*. Antoinette Roddick welcomes the first tour group to visit her Body Shop factory in Littlehampton, Sussex (s) (851761)
 5.45 *The Borrowers*. The penultimate episode of the six-part drama following the adventures of the tiny family who live under the floorboards. (Ceefax) (s) (789964)
 6.15 *Weather Watch* with Craig Charles (Ceefax) (281780)
 6.25 News and weather (232761)
 6.40 *Songs of Praise*. Alan Titchmarsh visits the German village of Burgenkunst. (Ceefax) (s) (452849)
 7.15 *Last of the Summer Wine*. Another amiable meander round the Yorkshire Dales. (Ceefax) (s) (709457)
 7.45 *Perry Mason: The Case of the Desperate Deception*. An American marine based in Paris is framed for the murder of a wartime concentration camp commandant. (Ceefax) (154438)
 9.15 News with Michael Buerk (Ceefax) Weather (931612)
 9.30 *Look at it This Way*. The final episode of the quirky satirical drama about London life in the Eighties (Ceefax) (42419)



Reflections on evensong: Dame Betty Ridley (10.30pm)

10.30 *Everyman*
 CHOICE: Evensong has been part of Dame Betty Ridley's life since she was a child and she is now 83. She was born and bred in the Church of England, the daughter of a bishop and the wife of a chaplain. In a touching and evocative film Dame Betty offers her reflections on a service which she sees as summing up life and preparing for death. The theme of death feels strongly. Dame Betty was widowed early, lost a brother at El Alamein and recently came close to death herself. It has not stopped her driving cars faster than her loved ones think wise. Her thoughts and memories are interwoven with an evensong from Winchester Cathedral, which demonstrates the strength of English choral singing and celebrates composers who have written specially for the service, notably the Victoria, Stanford and Howells. (Ceefax) (s) (104419) Northern Ireland: *Disciples of Death* (s) (2167)
 11.10 *Survivors' Guide to Maasricht*. A layman's guide to the Maasricht Treaty (5685683) Northern Ireland: 11.20 *Evenyman*
 11.45 *Bellamy Rides Again* David Bellamy visits a Surrey hospital and a Dutch pig farm (s) (1963326) Northern Ireland: 12.00 *Survivors' Guide to Maasricht*
 12.15 *Sam the Sky at Night* Patrick Moore is joined by former Astronomer Royal Professor Sir Francis Graham-Smith (s) (2813842)
 12.35 *Tarantalan* (s) (7107355) Northern Ireland: *Bellamy Rides Again* 1.05-1.45 *Tarantalan* 1.15 Weather (3765923)

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
 At London except: 12.30 *Gardening Time* (105549-1) 12.50-1.00 *Anglia News* (1177490) 2.00 *Snooker* (568544) 5.00 *Wrestling* (1457) 5.30-6.00 *Bulseyes* (1612)
BORDER
 At London except: 12.30-1.00 *Gardening Time* (1373411) 2.00 *Snooker* (452544) 5.00 *Snooker* (1734) 6.00-6.30 *Bulseyes* (s) (2230) *Cut* (Night) (s) (2167) 7.00 *Motorway Spots* (825674) 7.30 *Film: What's Good for the Goose* (561924) 8.30 *Pick of the Week* (40260303) 3.30 *ITV Chat Show* (8395781) 4.50-5.30 *Jobholder* (164741)
HTV WEST
 At London except: 2.00 *Snooker* (452544)
 5.00 *Evening to Remember* (Lasts 1hr) (s) (1457) 5.30-6.00 *Bulseyes* (1612)
SCOTTHILL
 At London except: 10.45 *John Mottram's Carters* (s) (2167) 11.15 *Lightning* (112630) 11.20-12.00 *Sunday Special* (s) (2167) 12.30 *Evening to Remember* (Lasts 1hr) (s) (1457) 5.30-6.00 *Bulseyes* (1612)
ULSTER
 At London except: 12.30-1.00 *Gardening Time* (1373411) 2.00 *Snooker* (452544)
 5.00 *Evening to Remember* (Lasts 1hr) (s) (1457) 5.30-6.00 *Bulseyes* (1612)
TSW
 At London except: 12.30-1.00 *TSW Farming Week* (4337411) 2.00 *Fishers* (9000053) 3.00 *Evening to Remember* (Lasts 1hr) (s) (1457) 3.30-4.00 *Snooker* (452544) 5.00 *Evening to Remember* (Lasts 1hr) (s) (1457) 5.30-6.00 *Bulseyes* (1612)
GRANADA
 At London except: 12.25-1.00 *What the MP's Say* (5910167) 2.00 *Granada Action* (445-5.30 *Central Jobholder* (92) (569337)

week. The A Team (s) (7877) 2.30 *Snooker* (452544) 4.00-4.30 *Horizon* (1612) 5.00 *Coronation Street* (s) (281780) 12.30 *Ciaz Night* (7253200) 1.35 *Motorsport* (s) (2167) 5.00 *Evening to Remember* (Lasts 1hr) (s) (1457) 5.30-6.00 *Bulseyes* (1612)
TVS
 At London except: 12.30 *TV5 News* (11738070) 1.00 *Evening to Remember* (Lasts 1hr) (s) (1457) 5.30-6.00 *Bulseyes* (1612)
TYNE TEES
 At London except: 12.25-1.00 *Wild World* of the East (5010167) 2.00 *Snooker* (452544)
 5.00 *The Back Page* (1147) 5.30 *Animal Country* (s) (2167) 6.00-6.30 *Bulseyes* (s) (2167) 12.30 *The Twilight Zone* (192623) 1.00 *Doc* (Night) (s) (2167) 7.00 *Evening to Remember* (Lasts 1hr) (s) (1457) 7.30-8.00 *Snooker* (452544) 8.30 *Evening to Remember* (Lasts 1hr) (s) (1457) 8.30-9.00 *Bulseyes* (1612)
SCOTLAND
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ITV
 At London except: 12.30-1.00 *Film: What's Good for the Goose* (561924) 8.30 *Pick of the Week* (8006675) 3.30 *ITV Chat Show* (8395781) 4.50-5.30 *Film: Tarantalan* (s) (7107355)
TSW
 At London except: 12.30-1.00 *TSW Farming Week* (4337411) 2.00 *Fishers* (9000053) 3.00 *Evening to Remember* (Lasts 1hr) (s) (1457) 3.30-4.00 *Snooker* (452544) 5.00 *Evening to Remember* (Lasts 1hr) (s) (1457) 5.30-6.00 *Bulseyes* (1612)
YORKSHIRE
 At London except: 12.25 *The Latest Hoo* (5929815) 12.50-1.00 *Calendar* (s) (2167)

RADIO 3

6.55am *Weather*
 7.00 *Sunday Morning Concert*. BBC Concert Orchestra performs Novello's *Overture*, Mendelssohn's *Requiem* (Touch her Soft Lips and Part, Suite — Henry V), Wenberger (Under the Sprawling Chestnut Tree); Coates (Suite, London Every Day); Addinsell (Wardrobe Concerto); Gershwin (Todd; Suk A Fairy Tale Suite) 9.00 *News*
 9.05 *Brian's Sunday Morning* (Handel (Overture, Judas Maccabaeus); Elgar, art Paisley; Cassidy (Choral de Miserere); Off the Top, 3.00, *Death of Sibelius*, Op 48; Chabrier (Idylle: Dense Villages, Places Pittoresques); Massenet (Sorbes Pithom); Mozart (Kynse Kynse); Kynse 4.47 *Evening to Remember* (Lasts 1hr) (s) (1457) 5.30-6.00 *Bulseyes* (1612)
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Nostalgia at the push of a button

Nigella Lawson praises the BBC for allowing viewers to wallow among the televisual Rembrandts and Chippendales

IN THE new marketing argot adopted by the BBC, *The Antiques Roadshow* would, I suppose, count as a "classic" of broadcasting. It thrived on the belief that everyone has some apparently worthless object hidden away in the attic that would, once Arthur Negus had blown the dust off it and polished the maker's mark on his jester sleeve, be discovered to be worth a fortune. And now it turns out that the BBC's own attic is full of the televisual equivalent of the lost Rembrandt and the Dulux-covered Chippendales: its collection of 120,000 old programmes.

These represented, according to *Panorama* last Monday night, the "gold mine" that could save the BBC. In the past, the BBC vaults were considered to be full of nothing more than summer-season repeats sold on the desperate promise of "another chance to see"; at best, they made for cheap programming, a respectable if unimaginative way to coast along. Their value, if it was seen to exist, was by default: stopgap, maybe, nice little earners never. Now, restyled as classics, they are the basis of a whole new channel.

UK Gold, the cable and satellite station which started a month ago, and which was at the hub of this week's *Panorama*, has no news, no documentaries, none of the public-service programming that is the *raison d'être* of the BBC. What it has is 20 hours a day of BBC and Thames TV repeats. It also has something no other BBC station has: advertising.

Melvyn Bragg, wearing his editor-of-The-South-Bank-Show hat — i.e., the guy from Independent Television who provides the sort of programmes the BBC pats itself on the back for making — claimed it must be a liking for archival material.

I must own up to a liking for archival material, too, since UK Gold started I have watched it more than any other station. I must

TV REVIEW

support of his insistent and increasingly convincing plea that perhaps some of the money from the licence fee should go his and other independent companies' way. There is hardly enough advertising to sustain the existing ITV channels, was his argument, and there will be even less if stations part-owned by the licence-funded BBC start creaming any of it off.

OK, so there's CNN and Sky News, too, but I've yet to be convinced they are the boons to civilisation their supporters claim them to be. Until now, I have rather sympathised with my grandmother's line on the whole business. When asked whether she would like a satellite dish "to augment her choices", she replied, sensibly enough, that there were already four channels with nothing on she wanted to watch, why should she want 40 channels with nothing on either?

The choice, however, was made for me, and there I was, stuck with it. I had a bit of fun with Rai Uno for a while; even if it is riveting, bad, it is at least in Italian, which helps. And one can at least feel one is being educated, even if the entertainment factor is on the dire side. But the whole idea of niche marketing for television is distressing.

Part of the joy of television is in its variety, and that variety does provide a useful service. If you watch a game show and then hang around to watch a documentary you might not otherwise have thought you wanted to see, you might gain something. It's a bonus. The Reithian legacy is too valuable to be cast aside, however much fashionable opinion may noisy hold to the contrary. But a separate little niche, a separate channel, for repeats: there is sense in that.

There is also a great deal of pleasurable wallowing. For there are few things more suited to the

also admit that I've never been satellite television's greatest fan: bad US imports, cartoons, phoney wrestling and sports stations packed with such as the Dutch women's tenpin bowling heats have so far made extra-terrestrial viewing so much television for the dim-witted.

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There is also a great deal of pleasurable wallowing. For there are few things more suited to the

gratification of nostalgia than television programmes. And a day's viewing — take Monday's for example — that takes in early *Neighbours* (Jason and Kylie before they grew up and hit the big time), *EastEnders* (remember Den and Angie), *Dr Who* in the dark ages with William Hartnell, *Terry and June*, *Shoestring* (Trevor Eve at his most rough-and-ready appealing), *After Henry*, *Dallas* (before JR got shot), *The Duchess of Duke Street* and *The Bill* is enough to turn anyone into a couch potato. OK, so the programmes tend to get repeated so often that by the end of the day you're word perfect on the script of *The Bill*, but that's only a minor drawback.

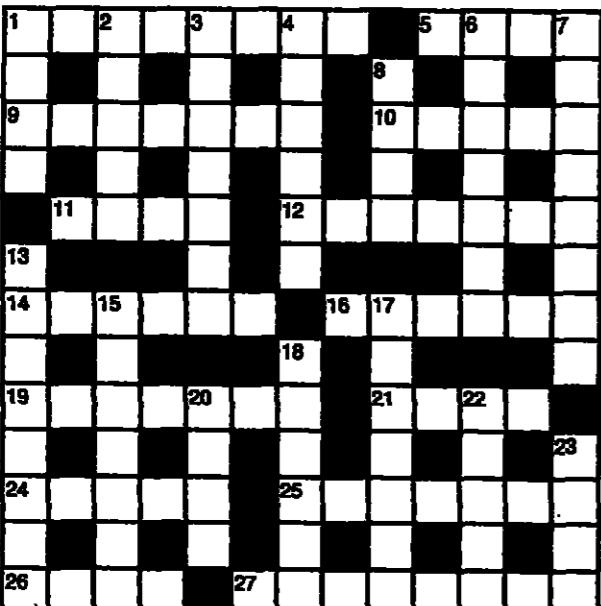
It's interesting to see, too, how

programmes have changed. Comparing an early *EastEnders* to the slick programme it has become is a lesson in the evolution of soap. The UK Gold version is rough-edged and fumbling: characters seem to wait a good minute between lines, the plot creaks along. The up-to-date BBC offering has everything crackling along, fast and angry.

Soap operas are meant to cement with the viewer some idea of the family, of belonging to it, and I have, rather sheepishly, to own up to feeling rather as if I were being shown old home movies of family friends as I see a young Sharon pouting because Angie won't let her stay out until 11 o'clock, or a spotty teenage Ian sobbing on his nan's knee because Pete's been teasing him about wanting to learn how to cook. Was it only so few years ago? Have they all grown up so fast? Some programmes, like *Casualty*, have since done a bit of tinkering with their image. The comic elements have all but been done away with (along with some of the aghastrop), and why, even Nurse Duffy's lost her West Country accent. Reginald Perrin is as good as I remember. *A Very Peculiar Practice* even better. Conversely, I watched *The Goodies* or *The Young Ones* in disbelief: I used to laugh at this, this rag week on videotape?

UK Gold's press release, issued at its launch, made much of the fact

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2963

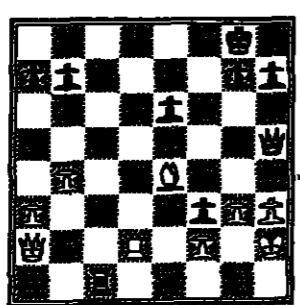


ACROSS
1 Unforthcoming (8)
5 Pigeon pea (4)
9 Blind writing system (7)
10 Correct (5)
11 Saw cut (4)
12 Enduring (7)
14 Inn (6)
16 Important man (3,3)
19 Hanging curl (7)
21 Slash (4)
24 Little island (5)
25 Tyro (7)
26 Happy (4)
27 Wake up bugle (8)
SOLUTIONS TO NO 2962
ACROSS: 1 Quiende 7 Tucks 8 Intrusive 9 Red 10 Bout 11 Betray 13 Entice 14 Unique 19 Douche 20 Pill 21 Our 23 Laborious 24 Slice 25 Harness
DOWN: 1 Quibble 2 In trust 3 Trug 4 Drivel 5 Scary 6 Aside 7 Terring 12 Scrape 15 Quixote 16 Enslis 17 Phobia 18 Bossy 19 Druid 22 Grime

WINNING MOVE

By RAYMOND KEENE, Chess Correspondent

This is a variation from the game Sher — Smagin, Foreign & Colonial Hastings Masters 1990. Black has sacrificed a piece and forced the white king into a tight corner. How does he now complete the rout? This year's Hastings tournament features the Hungarian prodigy Judit Polgar. Further details from the British Chess Federation on 0424 442500. Send your answer on a postcard with your name and address to: The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday next week will win a Batsford chess book. The



answer and the winners will be printed in *The Times* on the following Saturday.

Solution to last Saturday's competition: 1 ... Qxh3+. The winners are W. Laurie, Einfeld; V.Y. Zamvar, Southampton; R.F. Pallett, Slough.

WORD-SEARCHING

By PHILIP HOWARD

SPLORE
a. To turn hay into the sun
b. Merrymaking
c. The wet of a shoe
MIXOLOGIST
a. A mixer of drinks
b. A polygist
c. An all-round academic
academically

SUBRISION
a. Conspiracy
b. Smiling
c. Being taken by surprise

HELVE
a. To dig the earth
b. The handle of a tool
c. To divide in half

Answers on page 2

Everyone's a comedian tonight

TV PREVIEW

• **The British Comedy Awards 1992** (tonight, ITV, 8.05pm) Jonathan Ross pronounces on the best of the year's comedy output. This year sees a supposedly democratic development: you the viewer can vote for who you want to be "top comedy personality". You have till 9.45pm this evening to phone 0891 400701 for Clive Anderson, 0891 400702 for Rory Bremner, 0891 400704 for Angus Deayton, 0891 400705 for Paul Merton, and make your contribution to television history — if you can be bothered.

• **A Touch of Frost** (Sunday, ITV, 8.15pm) David Jason appears in a new and rather different guise in this feature-length police drama, the first in a three-part series, in which he plays Jack Frost, a rough, tough cop who, underneath a

rasping and shambolic exterior, nurses a private grief. This straight part is light years away from Pa Larkin and Del Boy.

• **Unnatural Pursuits** (Monday, BBC2, 9pm) The first of Simon Gray's two-part (which concludes on Wednesday at 9.30pm) in which the superb Alan Bates plays Hamish Part, a heavy drinking, chain-smoking playwright who travels across America supervising the production of one of his plays, with ludicrously funny results. Simon Gray denies the piece is autobiographical, though parallels may be difficult to resist.

• **Food and Drink** (Tuesday, BBC2, 8.30pm) Under the charming, affable stewardship

of Chris Kelly, this remains the most consistently informative and entertaining food programme on television. This week it shows a mini-documentary following John Burton Race, who has just come back from Madrid, where he won unaccustomed culinary honour for Britain by coming top in a competition of European chefs at the International Academy of Gastronomes. The programme also reveals the findings of a comparative tasting of cheap champagne and sparkling wines.

• **Clive Anderson Back** (Friday, Channel 4, 10.30pm) In the last in what has emerged as a cult series, Clive Anderson yaps with the American queen of backchat, Joan Rivers. I'd put my money on our boy coming out with fewest scratches.

N.L.



Pretty boys: Manic Street Preachers give deliberately provocative interviews that distract attention from the music

Preaching revolution for real

Caitlin Moran on a band known equally for mutilation and music

Manic Street Preachers' original plan.

"In the beginning, when we formed, we wanted to

sign to the biggest record label in the world, put out a

debut album that

would sell 20 million

and then break up.

Get massive

and then just throw

it all away.

By the time we were

giving interviews and saying

that to the press, though, we

didn't believe it.

We knew we

couldn't quite do that.

But if we

had aimed any lower in the

beginning, I don't think any

one would've paid as much

attention to us."

probably true," Edwards says. "In Wales, the women are as bored as the men, but the men will go out to the pub and beat the s**t out of everyone else; the women will stay at home and concentrate on surviving."

"A lot of girls, of 14, 15, love

the band," Nicky Wire, the Manics' glamourous bass-player, says. "I think they see us raving on their side. I hate men. Males don't seem to have any self-control any more; something catches their eyes and they don't see why they shouldn't have it."

The Manics inspire fiery

devotion in their fans

and hardcore Manic fans

reportedly follow Richey's lead

and care "4 REAL" into their

arms, too. Of course, all this

press-perfect controversy

makes it stupidly easy to

ignore the music.

Generation Terrorists (Columbia Records, all formats)

released earlier this year, is 18

tracks of crunchy, fuzzy power

chords, riot-inspiring samples,

lyrics that read like lists of

Glamorous Rock Things

which only occasionally rhyme

— sometimes you feel accidentally.

Half the tracks aren't necessary, but the other

half... four-minute bursts of

hunger, and aggression, and

racked gorgeness, like

"Motorcycle Emptiness", the

utterly beautiful, strung-out

ballad-type thingy, "Cultivate

sucks down words... Hurt,

main, kill and ensnare the

ghetto/Each day living out a

life/life's sold cheaply forever."

The Manic Street Preachers

— the first up on stage when

the revolution comes.



that recession has boosted television viewing figures, and in truth, there is a slightly recessionary feel to the channel. Not so much because of the bread-and-circuses element — undeniably there — but so far, at least, it is a bit of a job lot. There is a hint of unspoken street-side bartering: Den and Angie, *The Bill*, not once, but twice, but three times darlin', and for you, love, at no extra cost, go on, treat yourself, just sit yourself down and make yourself comfortable. But even the BBC is made of more than soap operas and sitcoms, and if UK Gold begins to dip more selectively into its archives, it may soon provide some of the consistently best viewing, or rather re-viewing, on television.

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